

Learn • Grow • Become

The Little Choices Collection

By Janet Bhardwaj

How to Read This Book

This book is not designed to be rushed.

The Little Choices Collection is intended to be read slowly across two or three school terms, allowing each story time to settle before moving on to the next.

The stories are not lessons with predetermined answers. They are opportunities.

Opportunities to talk.

To wonder.

To notice different perspectives.

To recognise something familiar.

To question.

To reflect.

Or simply to enjoy the story.

Some stories may lead to a rich classroom discussion. Others might prompt a quiet thought that a child keeps to themselves. There is no expectation that every story needs to become an activity, a worksheet or even a discussion. Sometimes children need the space to simply engage with a character and notice what the story brings up for them.

Read together. Pause when something catches the class's attention. Allow questions to develop naturally. Revisit stories when they become relevant again. Across the collection, children will encounter choices, relationships, emotions, misunderstandings, successes, difficult moments and ordinary ones. Rather than telling children what they should think about those experiences, the stories create space for them to explore what **they** notice.

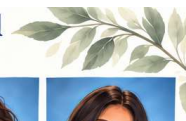
Take your time. The conversation is part of the story.



Year 6

The Satyoralem Way Public School

Heading to high school next year ...



 Fatima Al Zahra "Friend applications are now closed."	 Ari Noor Azim "Ctrl + Z. But for life."	 Noah Bennett "Just be Milo."	 Jessica Edna Blue "Wagtails know things."	 Dougie Chen "Okay, but why?"	 Dino Foxnest "Check the floor."	 Leela Hassan "Depends where you're standing."	 Mia Harper "Didn't take a photo. Still happened."
 Zarabelle Hinchinberg "It was only supposed to be one idea."	 Yusuf Karim "My finger has consequences."	 Jordan McPhee "I'll get there. Probably."	 Phoebe Mokoena "Well, that escalated."	 Lillyannah Murray "Pass the ball, mate."	 Tobias Murray "Still puzzled. Less bothered."	 Chloe Nguyen "Actually, I choose me."	 Liam O'Connor "Can I have five more minutes?"
 Raj Patel "Fine. You can know too."	 Mateo Rodriguez "GOOOOAAAALLL!"	 Sofia Rossi "Plot twist: I'm okay."	 Tyler Sherwood "I wasn't finished talking."	 Lucas Silva "I had heaps of time."	 Amelia Thompson "I knew the answer. That wasn't the problem."	 Sally Toppletree "Oh. There I am."	 Ethan Walker "Wrong way. Found it eventually."
						 Mrs Aronis "Just pause and notice."	

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The Little Choices Collection
Written by Janet Bhardwaj

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To all the children all over the world.

Always be your true self.

Contents

Dino Foxnest Notices the Little Things	8	Mateo Rodriguez and his Ultimate Goal.....	47
Jessica Edna Blue & the Wagtail Pause	11	Leela Hassan Shares Her Perspective	50
Tyler Sherwood Finds Her Voice.....	14	Noah Bennett and His Extraordinary Companion	53
Sally Toppletree and the Day She Noticed Herself.....	17	Fatima Al Zahra Makes A True Friend	56
Dougie Chen and his Quest for Answers	20	Phoebe Mokoena Rises to the Challenge	59
Ari Noor Azim Starts Again	23	Liam O'Connor Needs More Time.....	62
Amelia Thompson Shares the Answer.....	26	Ethan Walker Finds His Way	65
Zarabelle Hinchinberg and the Idea that Became More	29	Mia Harper Captures the Moment.....	68
Lucas Silva Has All the Time in the World	32	Chloe Nguyen Chooses Herself	71
Yusuf Karim Learns Every Click Is a Choice	35	Jordan McPhee Changes the Finish Line	74
Lillyannah Murray Plays for the Team	38	Raj Patel Opens His Mind.....	77
Sofia Rossi Is Going to be Okay.....	41	Mrs Aronis Continues to Learn	80
Tobias Murray and the Feeling of Being Puzzled.....	44	Janet Bhardwaj Has Something to Teach.....	84

Dougie Chen and his Quest for Answers



Dougie Chen asked lots of questions. Lots and lots of questions. Sometimes so many questions that people wondered if he ever stopped thinking. “What are you doing?” “Why is she crying?” “Why didn’t I get picked?” “How come her dress is green and not blue?” If there was something to wonder about, Dougie wondered about it.

One morning, Mrs Aronis announced a science activity. The students would grow bean plants in small pots. The class carefully planted their seeds. Then they waited. And waited. And waited.

The next day, nothing had happened. “Does the plant know we want it to grow?” quizzed Dougie.

The day after that, still nothing. “Maybe they don’t work,” said Jordan McPhee. “Maybe they’re sleeping,” said Zarabelle Hinchinberg. This time Dougie looked at his pot with curiosity. Then he asked: “How do plants grow?” The class grew quiet. “Because they’re magic,” laughed Jessica Edna Blue. Dougie frowned. That didn’t really answer the question.

At lunch, Dougie wandered into the garden. Noah Bennett was watching insects. Leela Hassan was reading beneath a tree. Dougie looked at the flowers. The trees. The grass. Then he asked another question. “What do plants need?” Noah shrugged. “Water?” Leela nodded. “Sunlight too.”

Dougie thought about that all afternoon.

The next morning, Dougie visited the school library. He searched his question on the computer. With a smile, he logged off.

In the classroom he rushed to the pots. The pots were sitting in the shade. Remembering what he had learnt, he moved them towards the window.

The next day, Dougie noticed something. The plants looked different. His eyes widened. “Mrs Aronis!” The class gathered around. Dougie pointed. “They’re growing!” Mrs Aronis smiled. “What made you move the pots, Dougie?”

Dougie grinned. “I asked my friends and did some research.” Mrs Aronis nodded. “Questions spark curiosity, research helps us discover answers.”

Dougie looked around the classroom. There were questions and answers everywhere. Questions about plants. Questions about people. Questions about the world. Answers he could see. Answers he could find. And answers that needed a little more effort.

As the bell rang, Dougie smiled. Tomorrow would bring more questions. And with those questions there would be answers to find.

Little by little, Dougie learnt that asking a question was sometimes just the beginning. There were answers he could see. Answers he could ask others about. And answers he could discover for himself.

Dougie was still curious. He still asked questions. Lots and lots of questions. He still wondered about people, plants and the world around him.

And now, when a question popped into his head... Dougie wondered where he might find the answer.

And with every new question, Dougie was Learning... Growing... And Becoming.

One little choice at a time.

The End.