

**Don't Open
That Door!**





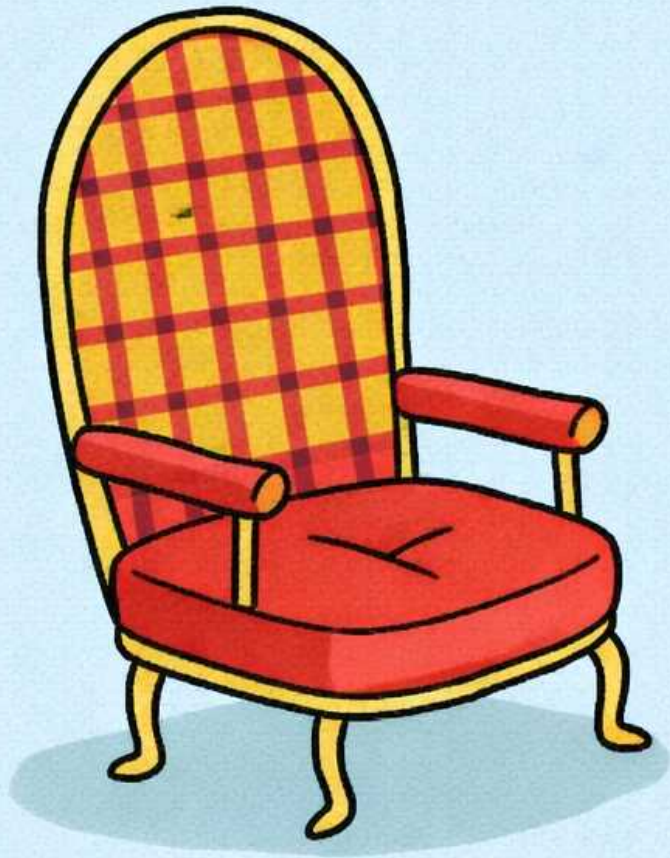
This is my granddad, Pa.
He truly loves telling me
stories at bedtime.

He sits on my bed with
a warm mug and shares
his tales. No book is as
good as his stories. His
tall tales make me feel
so cheerful.

Tonight, Pa leans in closer to tell me about a girl made of air. He is quite the actor when he tells a story.

I ask if this is a tall tale. He simply smiles and says he will ask me what I think at the end.





The girl made of air
cannot be seen. She is
nameless, like an **actor**
hidden behind a mask. If
she sits **softly** in a chair,
you would **hardly** see her
there. **Only** a small dip in
the cushion gives her
away.

If you are outside when it starts to rain, you might see her shape. The raindrops fall gently around her, showing her faint outline. Still, people walk **quickly** past without a look. **Only** a careful watcher will **truly** find her.



When it snows, the flakes rest **softly** on her head and shoulders.

Now her faint shape can **truly** be seen. A few children stop and stare.

They **brighten** with cheerful smiles as they point toward her snowy shape.



One morning, she acted **boldly**. She walked into a school, sat down, and picked up a green crayon.

The boy next to her screamed loudly, and the **teacher** dropped her coffee. To him, a crayon was **slowly** drawing a shape all by itself.





When she spoke to him,
the boy was no longer
fearful. He asked if he
could paint her so he
could really see her.

She held truly still,
hopeful. He slowly
brushed bright yellow
paint where her eyes and
smile would be.

When the boy finished painting, the girl asked him to fill her hair with things she loved. He painted a heart, a star, a cheerful cat, and bright music notes. She smiled gladly, looking lovely and truly seen at last.



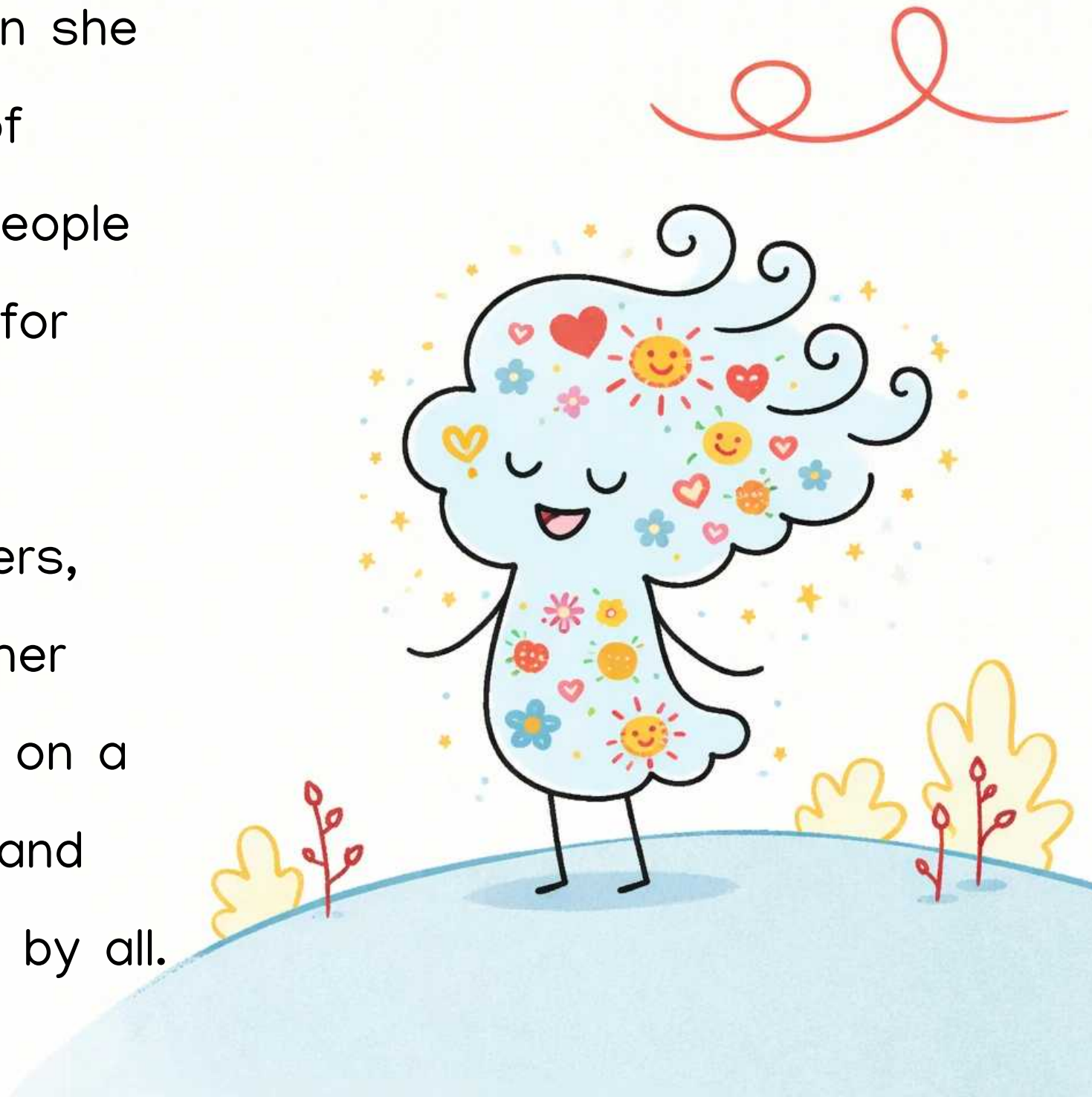


The girl made of air started a **daily** habit. Every morning, she painted herself before going out into the world.

Bright footprints marked her path **forward**. A paintbrush and fresh sparkles trailed behind her.

She feels that when she paints herself full of things she loves, people can **really** see her for the first time.

Hearts, stars, flowers, and **brightness** fill her shape. She stands on a gentle hill, glowing and **cheerful**, truly seen by all.





Pa comes to the end of his tale. He asks me to think **deeply** about what I just heard.

I lie under my blanket and ask myself if the story is **really** true. Was this **truly** a tall tale, or something from Pa's **childhood**?

I tell him I think it is all made up, and he smiles warmly and says goodnight.

But then, the door creaks slowly open. Brightness spills in from the hallway, but no one is there. I quickly pull the blanket up to my chin. Could the girl made of air be real?





Don't Open That Door!

Pa tells the best bedtime stories in the world, and tonight's tale is about a girl made of air - faceless, nameless, and almost impossible to spot. Could someone really sit quietly beside you without being seen? When a brave boy offers to paint her so the world can finally notice her, something wonderful begins. But when Pa turns off the lamp and the door creaks open... who is there? This decodable reader practices suffixes in words like 'truly,' 'brightness,' 'carefully,' and

Reading Skills: Suffix

achievement, actor, barely, boldly, brighten, brightness, carefully, cheerful, childhood, closer, daily, deeply, faceless, fearful, finally, forward, gladly, happiness, hardly, hopeful, longer, lovely, nameless, nearly, only, perfectly, quickly, quietly, really, simply, slightly, slowly, softly, teacher, toward, truly, warmly

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