PM+

The Japanese Garden



Story by Sally O'Neill and Nan O'Neill Illustrations by Claire Bridge

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Nikko and Shari Akira
lived with their parents in Australia.

Their father often had to go
on business trips to Japan.
While he was away,
they missed him very much.

Every time Mr Akira came home,
he had photos to show them.
He told Nikko and Shari
about the crowded city in Japan
where he worked.
"Most people have very small houses
and gardens," he said.
"It is hard for you to imagine
just how small these gardens are."


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"In Japan there are some people
who never leave the big cities,"
explained Mr Akira.
"They have to travel a long way
across the city to get to work.
So their peaceful gardens
are very important to them.
Before they leave home each morning,
they like to spend time there."

Nikko and Shari loved to hear
about the tiny gardens.
They imagined the things inside them:
the rocks, the water, the pebbles,
the small plants,
and the little stone lanterns.



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Mr Akira showed the children photos
of the little garden at the hotel
where he stayed.
"I often sit in this beautiful place,"
he said.
"I look at the rock and see a mountain.
I listen to the waterfall
and think of a river.
I look at the small bamboo
and see a deep forest.
Then I am ready to start work
in the busy city."

