



THE STRAWBERRY SLEUTHS



This summer, Nina and her dad were growing a garden. Tomatoes, strawberries, and lots of sunshine! Nina loved to watch everything grow. But one day, she noticed something strange.



"The strawberries are disappearing!" she said. Nina put on her detective hat and opened her case file. She wrote: "THE STRAWBERRY MYSTERY." Then she went to find clues.



She found muddy footprints! Tiny and pointy, leading away from the strawberries. "What kind of footprints are these?" she wondered. She followed the trail.



And there was the thief! A sneaky sparrow, with a strawberry in its beak. Its feet were muddy from the garden. "Aha!" whispered Nina. "I solved the mystery!"



Nina showed her dad the clues. "The sparrow is eating our strawberries," she said. Dad smiled. "We need a plan to protect them," he said. "Let's build a scarecrow!"



They built a scarecrow together. Dad hammered the post, and Nina dressed it in an old shirt and hat. She painted a big smile on its face. "Now the sparrow will think it's a real person!" she said.



The scarecrow worked! The sparrow stayed away. The strawberries grew big and red. Nina and her dad picked them together. "We solved the mystery," Nina said. "And we did it together."



That night, Nina wrote in her case file: "The Strawberry Sleuths solved the case. Dad and I saved the strawberries." And she drew a picture of them with the scarecrow. It was the best summer ever.