# EARTH'S BEST Ever FRIEND

Arith Marappa



## Earth's best ever friend

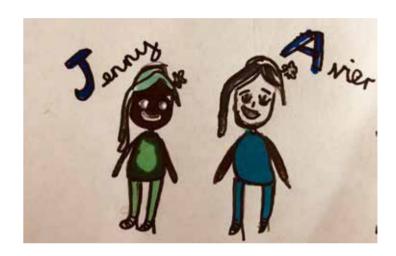
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# Breaking news!



"Breaking News! the Internet has gone missing!" reported the BBC. People all over the world were trying different ways to log on to the Internet but they just couldn't find it!

Have you ever imagined a world without the Internet? No? Well, you are about to find out soon.

London was bustling on a balmy day. Moments before the breaking news, the traffic signals at the dangerous road junctions came to a full stop. Cars were bumping against each other. There was a lot of panic and confusion around the city.

High up on the top-most storey of the tallest skyscraper in London, lived two beautiful twin girls called Jenny and Avier, in their cluttered apartment filled with all kinds of books. Jenny and Avier were both 8 years old, but Avier was older than Jenny by 17 minutes. Jenny and Avier loved learning new things every day and they were always reading books wherever they

went. Jenny's skin was as smooth as a honey and Avier had gorgeous hair with curls as curly as a windup in a yoyo.

Mum called out to them, "Jenny and Avier, shall we go for a little walk through the park?"

"No, Mummy, I would like to stay home and enjoy my new adventure book that I borrowed from the library yesterday," replied Jenny. Avier quickly agreed.

Mum turned the television on to catch up on her daily news round. The news was simply unbelievable. Mum screamed in surprise, "Oh my goodness me! How did that happen?"

Jenny came running into the living room to watch the television, "What's the matter Mum?" asked Jenny, puzzled.

"The Internet has gone missing Jenny!" cried Mum.

Baffled, Jenny walked back to her small room and carried on reading her book. Hours passed by. Jenny and Avier had their favourite tomato and cheese pizza for dinner and then went to bed.

### Alvin



Deep inside Jenny and Avier's computer, a nasty bug had been around for a long time. Nobody had ever noticed it.

A few days previous this tiny bug had run straight into the Internet and gulped it down. The bug then grew larger and larger and became the size of a book, with answers to every single question one could think of. He could do magic; he could read other books and he could even cook.

He then desired to explore the outer world for a few days. When he couldn't hold on to his cravings any longer, he decided to climb out of the computer through the small speaker holes. Climbing out of the speaker holes was very easy for him but being in the outer world wasn't. He quickly emerged from the computer and transformed himself into a talking magical booklike creature.

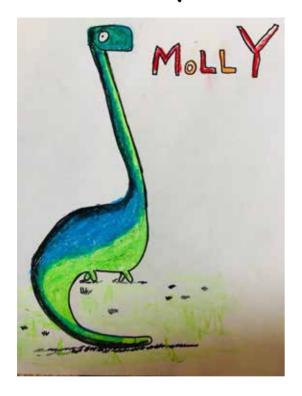
Alvin was born.

He had a bright, purple, sparkling body with a gorgeous smile, glittering, happy eyes and playful hands.

He looked like a book, but he had the Internet inside his brain and he always wanted to learn more and more. He loved to read books especially at night and he planned to read books on Jenny and Avier's bookshelves too. Jenny and Avier were in a deep sleep.

They had no idea of what was going to happen.

## Molly



At 7 o'clock in the morning, Jenny and Avier woke up to the start of the day with the alarm bell ringing ever louder than before.

There was an eggy, rotten smell in their room which caught their attention. Feeling uneasy, they looked thoroughly throughout the sunny room and the smell got stronger and stronger inside their tee-pee tent.

"Avier, what is that unusual smell? It's making me sick!" cried Jenny. They poked themselves through the tent and quite immediately jumped back with a loud, scary scream.

"Run Jenny!" shouted Avier. "Mummy!" called out Avier.

"What's the problem girls? Is everything alright?" asked Mum.

"There is a small dinosaur in our room!" replied Jenny.

"That's not possible, I am sure you are making some stories up," replied Mum.

"Mummy, no. You've got to see this for yourself. You won't believe it!" requested Jenny.

"I'll come and see what the matter is in a minute," said Mum.

Mum, Jenny and Avier went up the stairs together but this time they tiptoed behind Mum slowly and softly and there they saw a greenish blue baby diplodocus looking for food.

Mum nearly fainted at the sight of the baby Dino.

"Jenny, shall we call her Molly?" asked Avier.

"How do you know it's a girl?" asked Jenny.

"Well, she looks like a girl," replied Avier. She had soft greenish blue skin and bright eyes. But Mum, shocked and scared, was frantically looking for the closest Animal Rescue Team so they could take Molly away.

"How on earth did this get in here? I always thought they were extinct," cried Mum.

"Girls, please keep the door locked tight. The Animal Rescue Team will be here soon." warned Mum.

A few minutes later, when Mum heard the doorbell, she raced downstairs because she needed to get rid of the Dino immediately.

The rescue team rushed upstairs and found the baby diplodocus chewing the fluffy carpet. They carefully picked Molly up wearing their gloves and brought her downstairs. They placed her in a cage and off they went.

All day long Jenny, Avier and Mum wondered where the Dino had come from. They couldn't believe what had just happened. Jenny and Avier tidied up their room and looked out for any other animals that may have got in there. In the afternoon, they kept looking out for anything unusual. At the end of the day, they felt exhausted and went to bed.

#### Goochie



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Jenny woke up to find squiggly squids popping up from under all the flood boards. "Avier look, there are squids popping all around us!" cried Jenny.

"Really!" cried Avier.

"Mummy! there are squids everywhere!" screamed Jenny at the sight of the squids.

"Don't be silly again kids," replied Mum. "I think you are playing a trick on me." Their Mum did not seem bothered.

"No, we aren't, Mum!" cried Jenny.

"Fine, I'll be there in a minute," sighed Mum.

Mum nearly fainted again at the sight of the squids. "Oh no not again!" she cried. "Where on earth is all this coming from?"

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"I don't know, Mum," replied Jenny, confused.

Jenny suddenly saw a book on squiggly squids called Goochies, lying on the floor.

Something crossed her mind. She felt that everything in her books could come to real life at night. She thought there was a strong connection between the squids and the squid book she found lying on the floor.

She had an epic idea. That night Jenny and Avier put on their night vision goggles and hid under the bed to keep a watch. A book-like creature wriggled out of one of Jenny's bookshelves. Jenny was thrilled to see this little book-like creature coming to life. Suddenly, the room was lit up with green, magical candles. Jenny whispered to Avier,

"Look at the little one, Avier!"

Avier softly replied, "Shh, Jenny. We don't want to be noticed." "Shall we name him Alvin?" whispered Jenny. Avier nodded.

Jenny instantly thought Alvin was creating things from the books that he read each night. She was very curious to know if Alvin was really onto something.

Alvin opened one eye and then he opened the other one half way, and then three quarters of the way and then wide. He slowly clambered down the tall bookshelf and tiptoed to pick a book on bees.

Then he carefully opened the book on bees and he began reading aloud.

"He looks like he could do all sorts of tricks," whispered Avier to Jenny.



Jenny grabbed a small bucket and crawled out of the bed to capture Alvin under the bucket. She lifted the bucket up high into the air and smashed it over Alvin.

But cunningly, Alvin disappeared along with the bee book.

The next day, Jenny and Avier had another thrilling plan.

Jenny knew that Alvin loved creating things from books he read, but she didn't want him to bring harm to the planet. She thought of a brilliant idea that could make Alvin happy. So Jenny discarded the books that talked about things that were not good for the environment and the planet.

She kept a book on trees on her bookshelf so that they could see Alvin making a plant that could grow into a tree. That night Alvin indeed created a baby plant. Jenny was astounded.

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This time Jenny kept a book about tigers out and that night fifty tiger cubs were created. Jenny and Avier were very excited that their plans worked.

It was news to the world that two girls with Alvin living in an apartment in the topmost storey of a skyscraper in London had released fifty tiger cubs, butterflies and lots of bees.

People all over the world began fundraising to look after the cubs. Alvin helped with growing everything that one could think of to save the planet from climate change.

Alvin grew a variety of vegetables, grains and fruits all over the world. He even grew tropical fruits like papayas in the United Kingdom.

Alvin created loads of books for everyone to read.

Everyone had everything but nobody asked for the Internet.

Alvin had become Earth's best friend.

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### The End

We hope that you, your family and friends enjoy the book you have created. This project was coordinated and facilitated by author Nikki Young for members of her Storymakers writing club.

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The Internet has gone missing and in London, Jenny and Avier have been waking up to animals coming to life in their little bedroom that were deemed extinct. Together, they now must solve one mystery that could save this planet from disaster.

Are the two mysteries somehow connected?