



**Dandi
McLion**

has her

Say!

Patrice McLaurin

Illustrated by: **Stephanie Hider**

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Dandi McLion Has Her Say! by Patrice McLaurin

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This book is dedicated, in loving
memory, to my mama

Brenda Banks Brown.

Thank you for always believing in me.

Love you mama!

Greetings!

(which is me saying hello very fancy by the way)

My name is Dandi; Dandi Ade' (Ah-Day) McLion, to be exact. I am a beautiful and proud dandelion! My golden florets burst into the sky like their own radiant rays of sunshine, and anyone can see that

I AM ADORABLE!



I'm often a pretty happy dandelion too! Although, every once in a while, I do get a little sad. This feeling shows up when I think about the idea that some folks are prejudiced against dandelions. (Prejudice, by the way, means you dislike something without a good reason).

Well, when I told my mama about this unbelievable fact, she told me that,

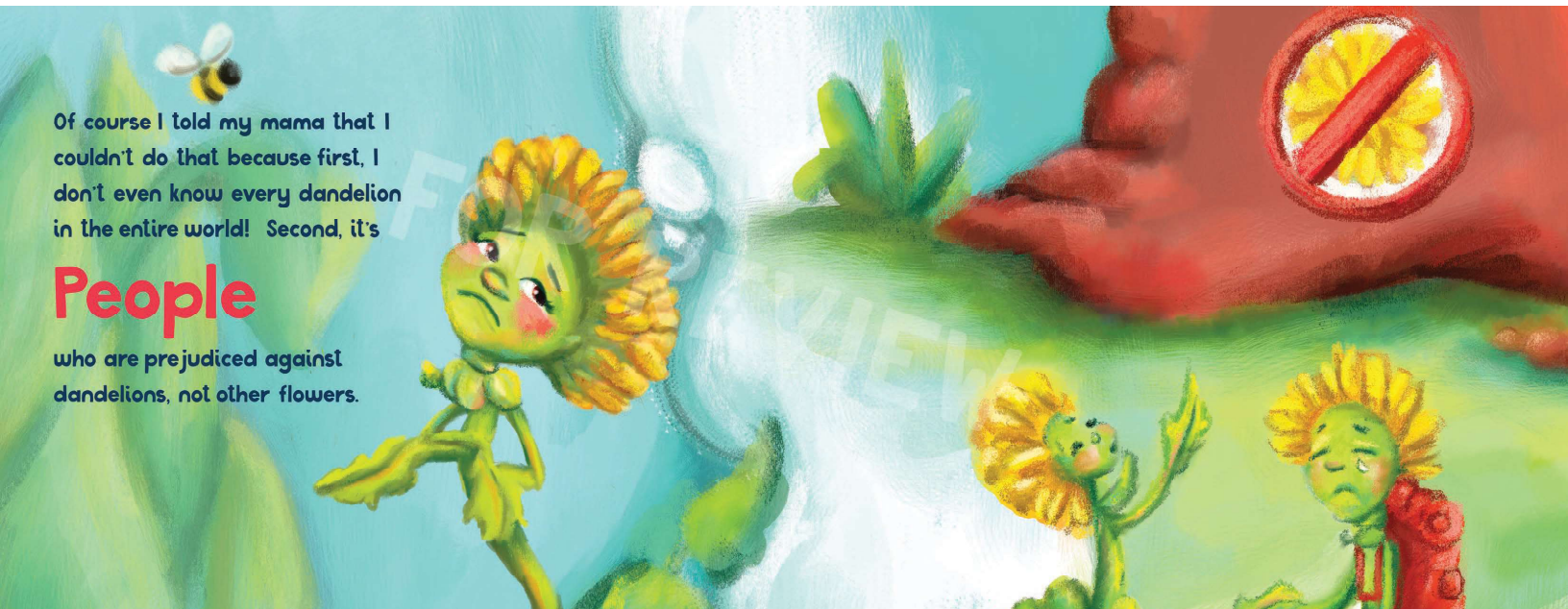
if I wanted to, I could use my voice to speak for all the dandelions in the **Entire World!**



Of course I told my mama that I couldn't do that because first, I don't even know every dandelion in the entire world! Second, it's

People

who are prejudiced against dandelions, not other flowers.

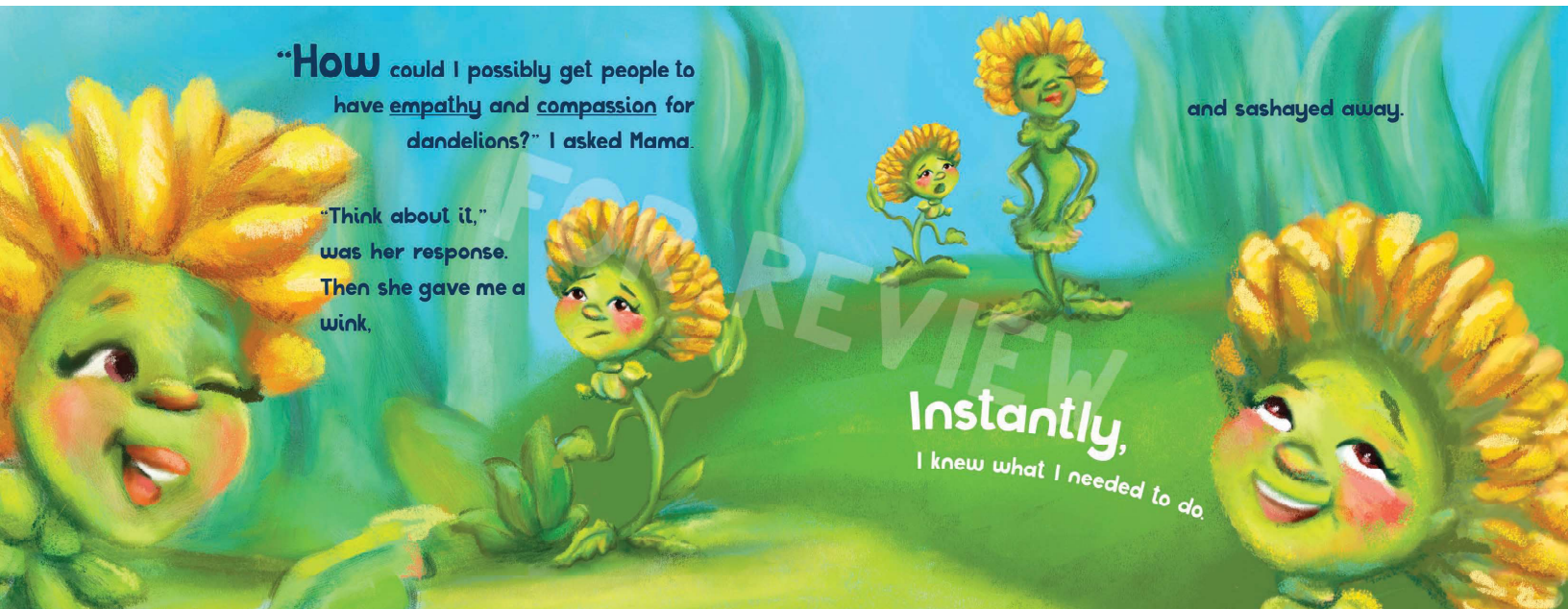


“How could I possibly get people to have empathy and compassion for dandelions?” I asked Mama.

“Think about it,”
was her response.
Then she gave me a
wink,

and sashayed away.

Instantly,
I knew what I needed to do.

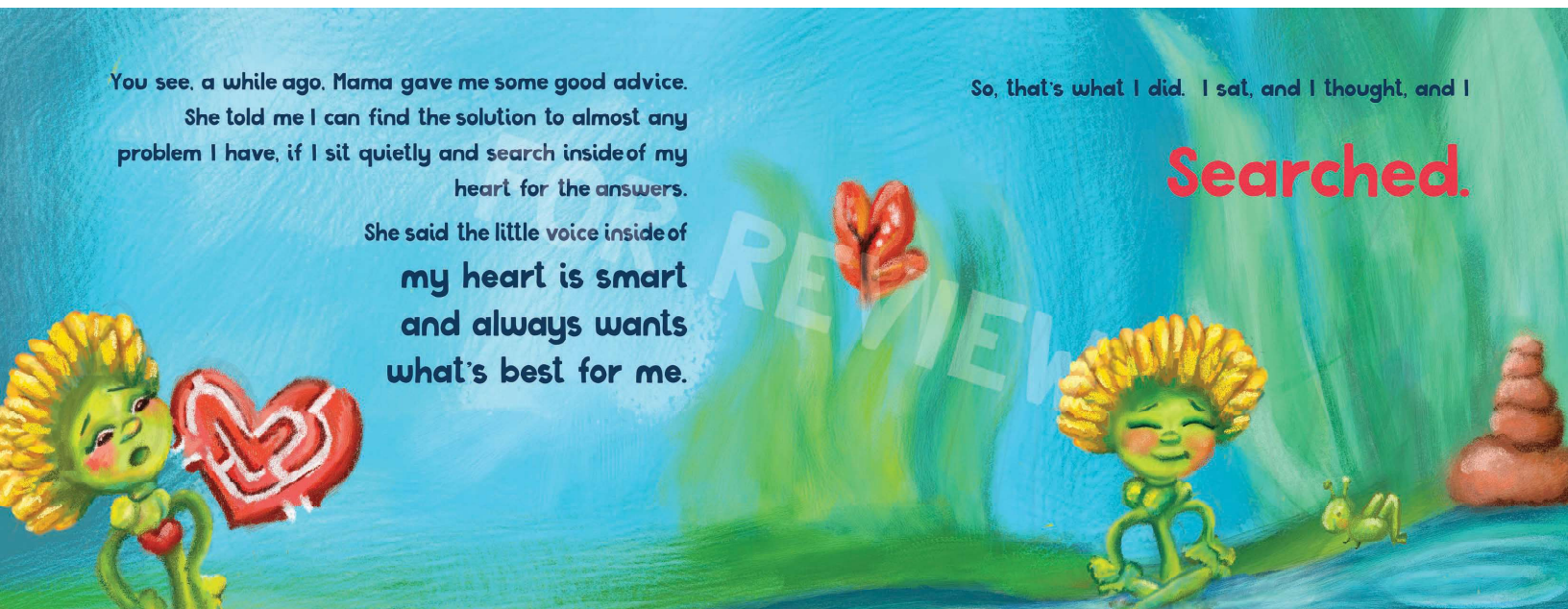


You see, a while ago, Mama gave me some good advice.
She told me I can find the solution to almost any
problem I have, if I sit quietly and search inside of my
heart for the answers.

She said the little voice inside of
my heart is smart
and always wants
what's best for me.

So, that's what I did. I sat, and I thought, and I

Searched.





A whole 10 minutes later, I ran and gave my mama the

biggest hug

because she was right! I found a solution to my problem! My head and my heart told me I should speak at the people's next town hall meeting!

After hearing my words at this meeting, the town's citizens will convince everyone that they know to become allies of the dandelion!

Then, people will treat dandelions with kindness and respect!

This was a **Brilliant Plan!**



Glossary

Ally a person or group that gives help to another person or group.

Citizen a person who lives in and has the rights given by a town, city or country.

Compassion to have sorrow or feel pity for someone who is hurting.

Edible safe and able to be eaten as food.

Empathy the ability to share and understand someone else's feelings.

Erosion wearing away of the earth's surface by wind or water.

Fertilize to make a plant or flower able to produce seeds or to make an egg able to grow and develop.

Floret a small flower, usually one of several that makes up a whole flower.

Herb a plant or a part of a plant that is used as medicine or to give flavor to food.

Nectar a sweet liquid produced by plants and used by bees in making honey.

Pollen the very fine usually yellow dust that is produced by a plant and that is carried to other plants of the same kind usually by wind or insects so that the plants can produce seeds.

Prejudice an opinion that is formed without knowing or considering all the facts. It sometimes results in hatred or unfair treatment toward a person or group without cause or reason.

Reputation the way in which people think of someone or something or the condition of being known for something.

Town Hall a building where people who govern a town have their offices and, usually, where these people and people of the town have meetings.

People have given dandelions a bad reputation, and Dandi McLion doesn't like it!

To resolve this problem, she speaks up for herself and for all the dandelions she knows. Will using her voice make a difference?

Find out what happens when Dandi McLion finally has her say!

