



## Natalie and Papa Explore the Wetlands

by James Strapko



Natalie skipped hand-in-hand with Papa down the winding path. Sunlight dappled through the trees as they entered the wetlands. Dragonflies zipped past, and a gentle breeze rustled the reeds.



Papa pointed out a vibrant patch of cattails, explaining how they help filter the water. Natalie listened intently, her eyes wide with curiosity. She loved learning new things from Papa during their walks.



They watched a blue heron patiently fishing in the shallow water. Natalie giggled as a tiny frog leaped from a lily pad. The air was filled with the sounds of nature.



Papa showed Natalie different types of plants, like the delicate marsh marigolds. He explained how each plant provided food and shelter for the wetland animals. Natalie carefully sketched the plants in her notebook.



Later, they observed several birds flitting amongst the reeds. Natalie identified a red-winged blackbird and a yellow warbler with Papa's help. She felt a deep sense of wonder.



Back home, Natalie decided she wanted to learn more about wetlands. She hugged Papa, feeling inspired and excited about her future studies. She knew she wanted to protect these beautiful places.