

Storytime Sparks

A free gift for families, educators & grandparents reading Grandma Gnome's Fairies



Designed by Toni-Lee Birch – Artist, Author, and Storyteller

Thank you for welcoming *Grandma Gnome's Fairies* into your home or classroom.

Whether you're reading with a child on your lap, in a cozy classroom corner, or under the shade of a tree, these pages are here to help turn story-time into something magical.

Not everyone feels like a natural storyteller—and that's okay. This pack is full of gentle ideas and creative sparks to help you make the most of your moments together.

Stories are how we connect, reflect, and grow—thank you for being part of *my* story. 🧡

Kindest Regards

Toni-Lee



Section One: The Magic of Shared Stories

Sometimes, the magic isn't in the fairies—it's in the way a child turns to you and says, "Did that ever happen to you?"

Here are some gentle reminders to pause in the story and share your own little life moments:

- *"Baby Gnome lives above a shop"* - Tell them about where you lived when you were little. Was it a busy place? What did your bedroom look like?
- *"Baby Gnome has only concrete in the backyard"* - Tell them what was special about your backyard when you were growing up.
- *"Baby Gnome travels a long way to visit his Grandmother"* - Did you live close to your Grandmother? What was she like? What was special about her?
- *"Baby Gnome travels on an aeroplane from Sydney to Townsville"* - Talk about the map and find where the child lives, where your Grandmother lived and how you visited.
- *"Grandma Gnome grows flowers"* — What did your grandma grow? Do you remember the smell of her garden?
- *"Grandma Gnome has an Australian Cattle Dog called Matilda"* - What pet did you have as a child? What funny story can you remember about one of your pets?
- *"Grandma Gnome gets a fright from the Cane Toad and scurries up the hill"* - Have you ever seen a Cane Toad? Was there something that gave you a big fright when you were a child?
- *"Grandma gives Baby Gnome a warm hug after the Toad incident"* - Did your Grandmother ever give you hugs? Was there ever a time you were scared as a child and somebody gave you a warm hug to make you feel safe?
- *"After Baby Gnome could feel the magic in the garden he could see the fairies"* - Have you ever gone looking for fairies as a child? Did you ever build a fairy house in your garden?
- *"The Woodland Fairies dancing in the leaves"* - Let's count the fairies and see how many are hiding in the leaves.
- *"The blossom Fairies make people sneeze"* - Is there anyone in the family with hay fever discuss the possibility of Blossom Fairies being the cause.
- *"There are all different types of fairies"* — Were you ever told magical bedtime stories? Who told them to you? Did you ever go into the garden to find them?
- *"Can you remember the most magical moment you've shared with your Grandmother, Parent or grandchild"* - Describe the magical moment in detail with each other.

These pauses are golden. They turn reading into storytelling and storytelling into connection.

Section Two: Conversation Starters

Use the pages to launch into delightful back-and-forth moments:

- “Which fairy do you think would live in our garden?”
- “If you could shrink down and visit the Woodland fairies in their tree, what would you bring with you?”
- “Why do you think the fairies trust Grandma Gnome?”
- “Which fairy is your favourite and why?”
- “Do you think there might be more kinds of fairies all over the world?”
- “If we could hear them what do you think they would sound like?”

Let children ask questions back—this is where their imaginations grow wild and free.

Section Three: Creative Play Ideas

Keep the wonder alive long after reading time:

- **Fairy Garden Craft** – Collect leaves, flowers, and pebbles to build your own tiny fairy world outside or in a shoebox.
- **Drawing Time** – Sketch your own version of a fairy, or create a new one. What’s its name? What does it love?
- **Role Play** – Pretend you’re visiting Grandma Gnome’s garden. What do you see? What do you hear?
- **Garden Visit** - Take the child into nature. Visit a local park / Nature strip or garden. Both of you lay down on the ground holding hands with your eyes closed and listen to the sound of the bushland. Walk around and together hand in hand look for signs of fairies.
- **Fairy Craft** - Using found objects from the garden and some modelling clay create some natural fairies together. Place these in the fairy garden you created earlier.
- **Drawing Time** - Take your coloured crayons or pencils outside with some drawing paper. Discuss the colours and shades in the garden. Using leaves from the garden place them under the paper and rub the crayon over it to see the texture.

These activities make stories come alive and encourage meaningful, screen-free play.

Section Four: Colouring Pages

The following pages are illustrations from my book that you can print off for your child to colour. Thank you for making space for story-time magic.



