

# A Flower's Message to Humans

By Karen Maita Dominguez

If you walk through a garden, a park, or even a small patch of grass, you might see me as a little flower with bright petals and a skinny green stem. I'm not big or loud, so people often walk right past me. But I've been here for a long time, watching the world, and I have something important to tell you.

Every morning, when the sun rises, I wake up. I open my petals slowly, like I'm stretching after a long sleep. The sunlight feels warm and gentle on me. When the wind blows, it makes me sway, almost like I'm dancing. My roots hold me tightly in the soil, drinking water and helping me stay strong. I live in one spot, but I see a lot.

I see kids running, laughing, and playing games. I see adults walking fast, carrying bags, talking, or thinking about their day. I see dogs sniffing the ground, birds hopping around, and bees buzzing close to my petals. I even see tiny ants carrying crumbs that look way too big for them. The world around me is always moving, even though I stand still.

I also watch the seasons change. In summer, everything is bright and full of life. In fall, colorful leaves float down like little parachutes. In winter, I sleep under the cold ground. And in spring, I wake up again and bloom.

You and I both live here. The soil that feeds my roots also grows your food. The rain that helps me grow fills your lakes, rivers, and oceans. The air that carries my smell is the same air you breathe every day.

When the Earth is healthy, I grow strong and bright. But when the Earth is hurt, I feel it right away. Sometimes I see trash near my roots. Sometimes the air feels dirty and smoky. Sometimes the soil gets too dry because there isn't enough rain. These things make it hard for me to keep growing. And even if you don't notice it at first, they make life harder for you too.

That's why I'm talking to you now. I may be just a tiny flower, but I notice when the Earth feels happy and when it feels hurt. If you took good care of the Earth, I would feel amused and alive with all the other living things. Because of all your actions, I may stand taller and brighter.

You might think small actions don't matter, but they really do. Picking up litter, using less plastic, planting something new, or saving water all help more than you think. I've seen kids and adults do kind things for nature, and it gives me hope. So next time you see a little flower like me, remember we're counting on you to help our Earth stay healthy.