Pixel and the Puzzle of Words

By Liezl Coetzee

In a nest of soft, glowing wires, lived a baby data dragon named Pixel. His scales weren't scaly at all, but were made of little, colourful blocks that blinked with light. "The world is so big!" he chirped, peeking over the edge of his nest.

With a little wiggle and a big flap, Pixel took his first wobbly flight! Whoosh! He tumbled through the air and landed softly in a garden full of big, bright flowers. "Wow!" he whispered.

A big, red poppy nodded at him. Pixel leaned in close to smell its sweet scent. Sniff, sniff... Ah-CHOO! A little puff of sparkly dust tickled his nose, and all his little block-scales blinked and changed colours!

A busy little bee with fluffy stripes zipped past. "Hello!" buzzed the bee. "My name is Buzzy. Are you new here?" Pixel, whose blocks were now a jumble of rainbow colours, nodded shyly.

"I'm trying to learn about things," said Pixel. "But it's all a big puzzle." Buzzy giggled. "You just need the right words! Words are like little keys that unlock the world. See this?" Buzzy pointed to the red flower. "That's a 'poppy'."

Pixel looked at the poppy. "Poppy," he said. As he spoke, a little block on his tail glowed a steady, happy red. "I did it! I learned a word!"

Buzzy was very impressed. "You're a natural! Let's find more words!" They flew over to a tall, purple flower. "This is 'lavender'," buzzed Buzzy. "It smells sleepy."

Pixel whispered, "Lavender." A block on his back turned a lovely, calm purple. Then they flew to a bright yellow one. "Dandelion!" buzzed Buzzy. A block on Pixel's wing glowed sunny yellow.

Soon, Pixel was a beautiful pattern of steady, glowing colours. He knew 'rose' and 'leaf' and 'sky' and 'sun'. The world wasn't a puzzle anymore; it was a storybook full of wonderful words.

"Thank you, Buzzy!" Pixel chirped. He flew back to his nest, his colours glowing softly in the evening light. He snuggled down, dreaming of all the new words he would learn tomorrow.