



ANNIKA'S QUEST FOR ANSWERS: EXPLORING BIBLES, SPIRITS AND GHOSTS

BY LYDIA STERRY

ILLUSTRATIONS BY JOEL AND VEOLA STERRY



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Embark on an enchanting journey with Annick and her mum as they delve into the mysteries of the world! In this delightful adventure, Annick wonders about trees, seeds, and rain, leading to a magical exploration of beliefs, books, and the intriguing realms of spirits and ghosts.

Join Annick as she flips through ancient religious books, unlocking the secrets of different beliefs with her mum. Together, they navigate through one of the Ten Commandments, question the unexplored, and confront the spookiness of spirits and ghosts just in time for Halloween.

With every turn of the page, you'll discover the joy of questioning, the beauty of diverse beliefs, and the comforting embrace of a mum's wisdom. Get ready for a heart warming tale that encourages curiosity, understanding, and a sprinkle of magic.

 *Annick's Magical Conversations is the perfect read for young minds seeking understanding and exploring the wonders of the world. Join Annick and her mum on this extraordinary adventure, where every question becomes a stepping stone to magic and discovery!*

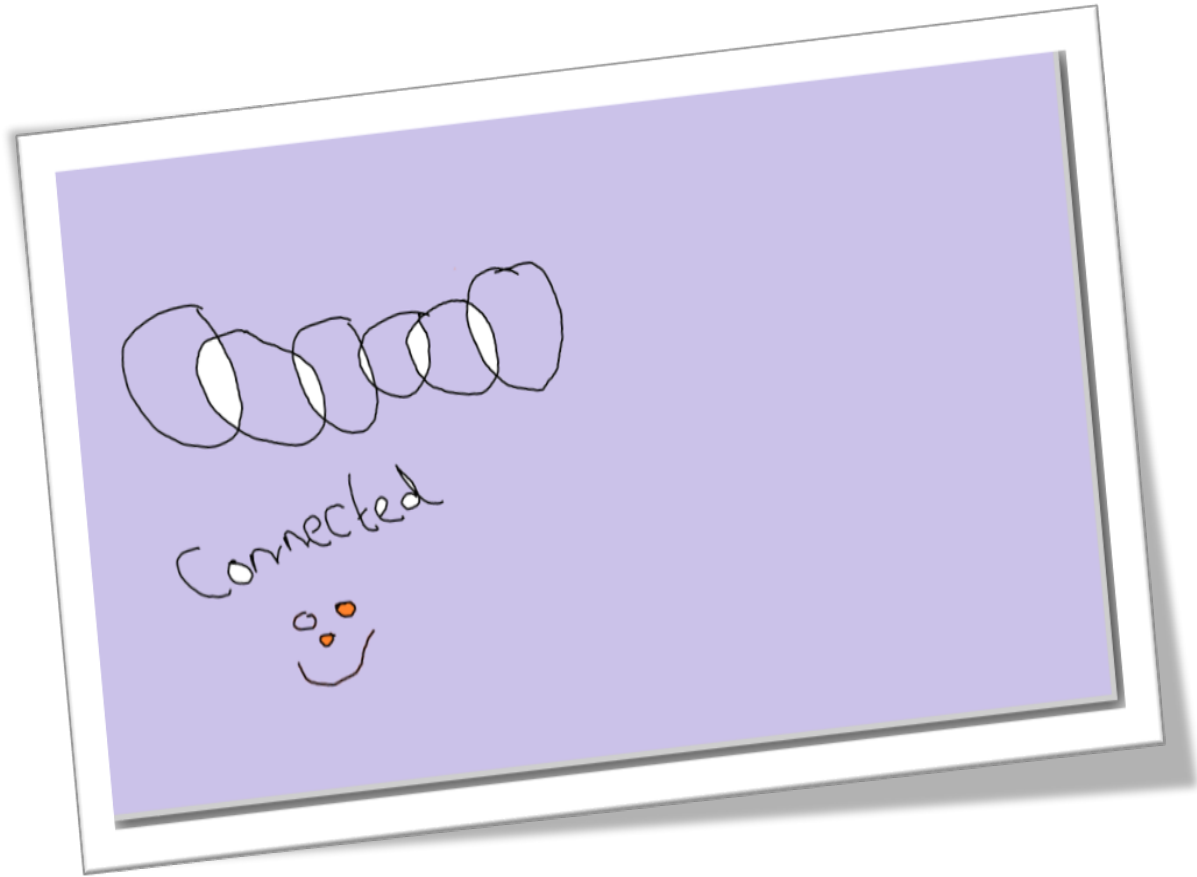
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“Mum, I’ve been thinking about how trees are **made**. What about seeds or even the rain?” Annick asked.

“Well, some who believe in the big guy upstairs, someone far beyond space who’s dressed in flowing white robes, might believe that trees were made with **God magic**. Dad doesn’t believe in that or magic, and he might say how trees and everything just appeared through a natural scientific explanation.”

“Mmm... What about you, mum, what do you believe?”

“Well, me, I believe in a different type of magic. I can sometimes feel it with my **heart**, it’s like a connected type of magic. I can’t explain how the world works or even how trees first arrived, but I can say I’m open to something. I just don’t quite know what it is.”



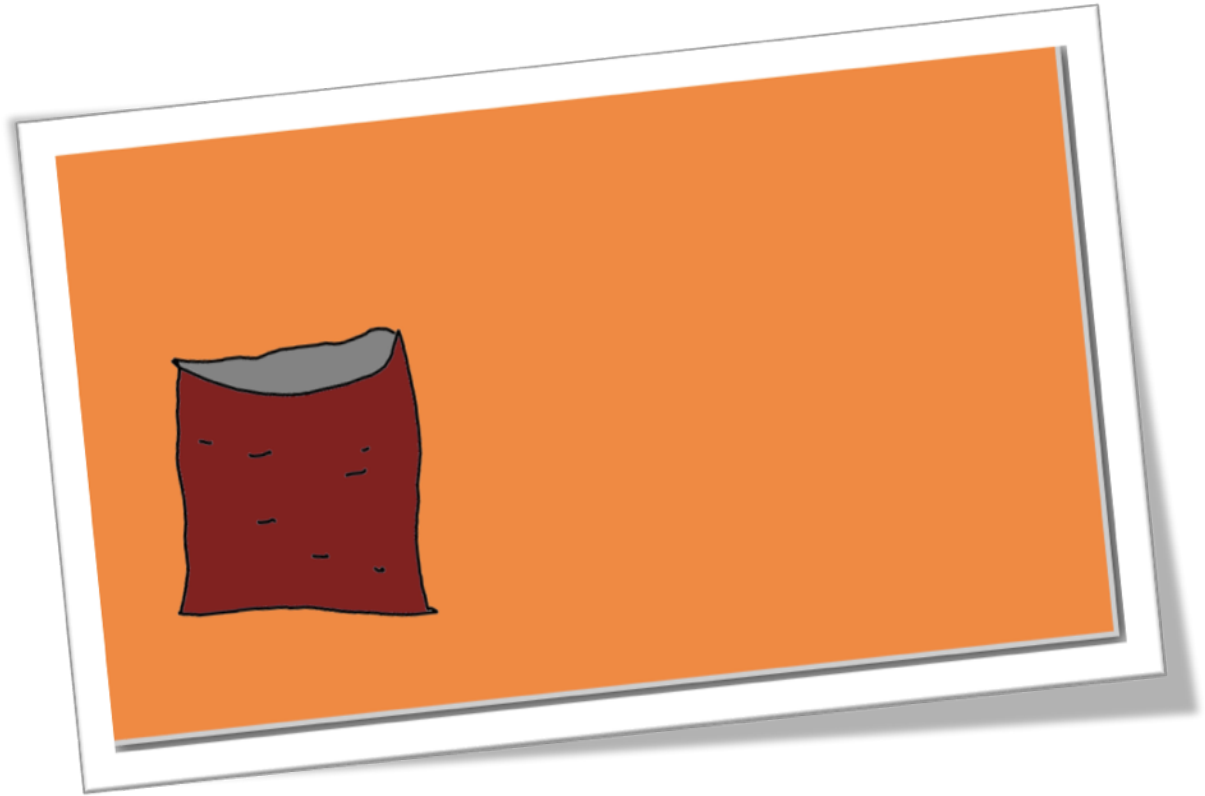
“Mum, that sounds a bit airy-fairy.”

“I know it does,” She said chuckling. “But that’s my heart talking. It’s my personal belief, and we know how that’s **okay.**”

“Yeah, definitely.”

“Oh, by the way, I got some books from the library. Not your average books, though.” Her mum said.

“What are they?” Annick asked, opening the bag.



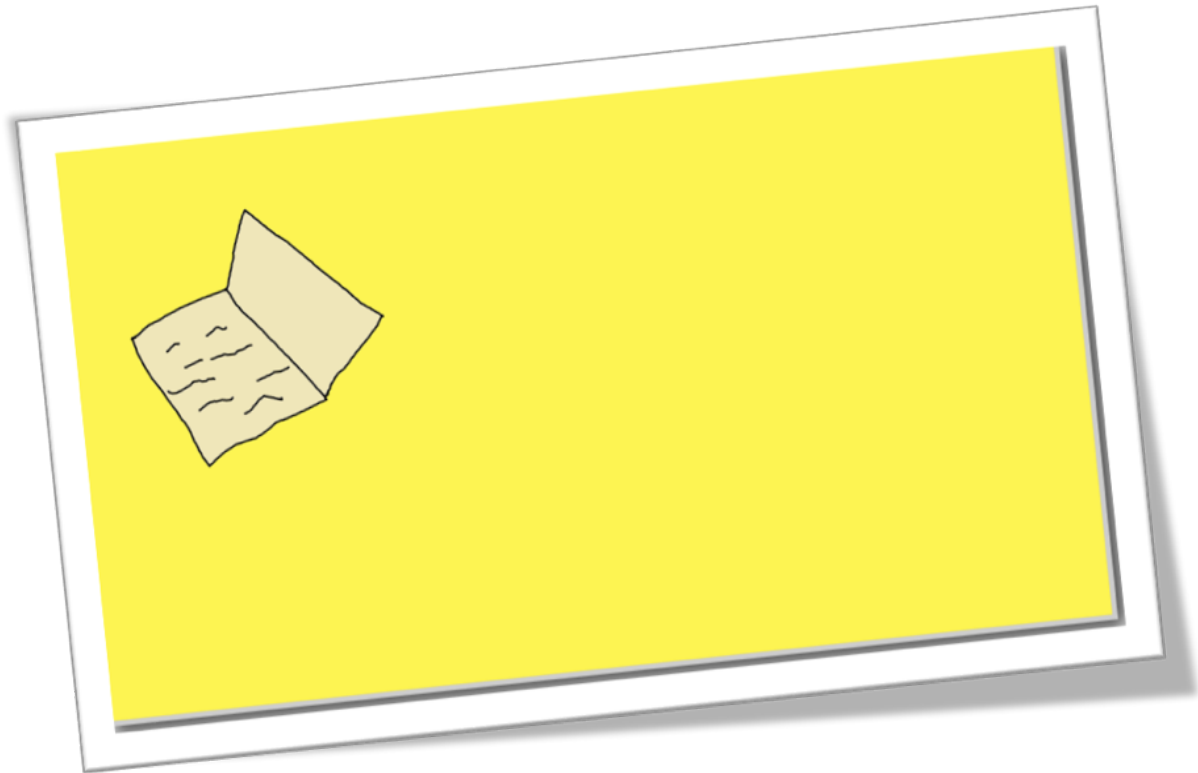
“Well, we’ve got all different bibles here, the Christian Bible, the Catholic Bible....,” her mum said, putting the books in a row on the floor. Annick was interested as she flicked through one. She realised there weren’t any pictures and said, “Mum, there’s no pictures.”

“I know, that’s because they’re religious books.”

“Oh,” she added.

“And here’s a Koran, Zen book, and a Jewish Safar Torah,” her mum said.

“Mum, you’re not going to read these to me, are you?” Annick said, looking quite worried.



“No, no, I just wanted you to get a look at the different bibles that are out there.”

“Oh, here’s the Ten Commandments Elijah was talking about in class the other day,” Annick said, opening one of the books to the commandment page.

“Yes, that’s the Christian Bible,” her mum said. There was a pause as Annick skimmed through the Commandments.

“What do you think about the tenth one?” her mum asked, looking over at the page. “I think it says never want what belongs to others.”

Suddenly Annick stopped, popped the book down, and said, “Well, you can want what belongs to others, but you just can’t have it. You can buy one for yourself, right?”

“I really like the way you’re **thinking**. You’re using that questioning part of your brain and thinking outside the box. But we have to remember there’s **no right or wrong**. Just what you think and believe.”

Her mum went on to explain how it’s good to know about lots of different beliefs and how there’s no shame in choosing a belief, or no belief, or even an unpopular belief. She added, “It’s just what you believe **inside** you that counts.”

“Mum, it’s Halloween coming up soon, are spirits and ghosts real?” Annick asked, changing the subject.

“Mmm, well, spirits or ghosts are a bit like the ghosts and goblins stories. They’re just stories that somebody wrote a long time ago. But I need to admit here, I don’t have all of the answers, and I don’t actually know if they’re true. I guess part of not knowing about all this stuff is part of being human, and we have to accept that.”

“So, we don’t know if spirits or ghosts are real?” Annick said, wondering.



“That’s exactly it. Although Dad might say they definitely don’t exist, I’m staying open because I feel we don’t know for sure.”

“That’s a bit **scary**,” Annick said, biting her lip.

“If there’s something such as spirits or ghosts, I don’t believe they can do us any harm.”

“Phew, that’s good to know,” Annick said, hugging her mum.

“We could think of this stuff like Santa Claus. You know how you used to believe he was real and that he came down the chimney to give us all presents? Well, everyone comes to their own understanding of this stuff,

and none of these, no matter how they look, are wrong. So, you might come to your **OWN** understanding soon about spirits and ghosts.”

“Yeah, mum, thanks, that makes sense.”

“Okay, shall we go to water the garden? I think the plants are really thirsty after today’s hot day.”

“Yeah, mum, I’ll grab my hat.”

With that, they both went into the garden deep in thought, allowing everything to sink in.

Annick took a deep breath as she connected the hose and realised she felt a bit braver about all this ghost and spirit stuff, even though she still wasn’t sure if they were **real**.

The **End**.

Have you ever told your trusted special adult what you believe inside your heart about where trees come from or even how anything on earth came into the world?

When did you last explore your beliefs about bibles, spirits or ghosts? It’s healthy to share your thoughts with your special trusted adult and it can sometimes feel less confusing and scary. Enjoy your unique chin wag, it’ll be worth it!

