

Name _____



Lasting Beauty

Miss Rumphius had many dreams as a child. She wanted to travel the world, see faraway places, and live by the sea. Her grandfather encouraged her but reminded her of something important: she must also do something to make the world more beautiful. At the time, young Alice Rumphius did not know what that would mean for her future.

As she grew older, Miss Rumphius fulfilled two of her wishes. She traveled across the globe, meeting people from different cultures, exploring mountains, deserts, and lush green forests. She marveled at the beauty of the world, but she still had one promise left to fulfill—she had to leave a positive mark.

After settling into a cozy house by the sea, she found her answer in an unexpected way. One spring, she noticed the lupine flowers blooming near her home. The sight filled her with joy, and an idea sparked in her mind. She decided to plant lupine seeds wherever she could—on hills, along roads, and in fields. Year after year, the flowers spread, turning the landscape into a sea of purples, pinks, and blues.

At first, people wondered where all the flowers had come from. Soon, they learned about Miss Rumphius and her simple but powerful act of kindness. Inspired by her, others found their own ways to leave something good behind—some planted trees, others created works of art, and many helped their communities in different ways.

Miss Rumphius may have grown old, but her legacy lived on. The fields of lupines continued to bloom long after she was gone, reminding people of the beauty she had added to the world. Her story teaches us that leaving a positive legacy does not always require grand gestures. Sometimes, small actions—like planting a flower—can inspire future generations and make the world a better place.