

# Chapter Six

In Chapter Six of "If These Wings Could Fly," the narrator and Campbell pass by Mrs. Stieg's house on their way to the bus stop. The narrator notices a severely damaged bush in the far corner of the garden, distinct from a previously broken bush nearby. This new damage is more extreme, with the bush pulverized to the point that only disturbed soil, crushed crimson petals, and shattered branches remain. The vivid description emphasizes the extent of destruction, setting an atmosphere of tension and curiosity surrounding the incident.

The narrator points out the damaged bush to Campbell, who reacts with a nonchalant shrug. However, the narrator perceives something deeper in Campbell's expression—her large brown eyes gleam with a subtle pride. This detail hints at Campbell's possible involvement in the destruction, suggesting a hidden layer of complexity in her character. The narrator's observation creates an unspoken understanding between them, adding intrigue to their relationship and the unfolding story.

Despite the strong suspicion that Campbell's bike might carry traces of the crushed petals, the narrator chooses not to investigate further. This decision reflects a deliberate restraint, possibly to avoid confrontation or out of a desire to preserve their friendship. The narrator's internal conflict is subtly conveyed, revealing the nuanced dynamics between the characters and the unspoken boundaries they navigate.

Overall, this chapter uses a brief but impactful scene to explore themes of damage, secrecy, and the complexities of adolescent relationships. The focus on small details—the crushed bush, the crimson petals, and Campbell's proud gaze—builds a layered narrative that invites readers to consider the underlying motives and emotions at play. The chapter's tone remains observant and subtly charged, maintaining coherence with the book's introspective style.