

**MAZIE**

**AND THE**

**MYSTERIOUS**

**HEDGE**

**A LESSON IN  
FORGIVENESS**



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# DEDICATION

**T**his book is dedicated to my fifth-grade students.





**M**azie the mouse stood to stretch her back after pruning her roses. She smiled as she admired her handiwork. She kept a beautifully manicured lawn. Not a speck of crabgrass, not a sprig of weeds could be seen. Yes, Mazie took pride in her yard. She was a professional gardener, and she made sure everyone knew it.

One fine sunny day, Mazie's friend George stopped by her cottage to visit. George, the handsome gopher, brought his new golf club. He wasn't a pro golfer, but he had high hopes of becoming one. George showed Mazie how the golf club should be held. He demonstrated the new swing he had learned at his golf lesson. George swung the club and accidentally hit the perfectly manicured lawn.





*Oh no!* George thought. When he looked up, he saw a piece of the ground flying through the air. The horrified look on Mazie's face startled him. He tried to patch the divot.

"Mazie, I am so very sorry," George cried. He repeated his apology a hundred times, but Mazie only said, "Okay." He didn't stay for tea. He didn't stay to chat. He left with his club hung over his shoulder and his head down.

Mazie stewed over the clump of turf in her backyard. How could George be so careless? She patched the hole and arranged her outdoor furniture so nobody would see it.

To Mazie's surprise, the next morning a little bitty plant began to trim the border of her entire yard. She investigated to see if it was a weed. To her delight, she found it was a rare hedge. She giggled with glee, excited to see such beauty. It looked like a picture frame around her pretty lawn.

Mazie's friend Sue dropped by unannounced one late afternoon. Now Sue the mole was a wonderful friend, but she was not graceful, and she couldn't see well. Mazie led Sue to the back patio. They chatted and enjoyed the sunset.

"The new border around your land is adorable," Sue commented.

"Why, thank you, Sue. I do love the new addition to my garden," Mazie said, pleased that Sue did not notice the ugly hole George had left by being so clumsy.

