

# WEIRD AND WONDERFUL

When Hedgie steps onto the tiny planet Mikkop, he's surrounded by funny pebbles. I first saw rocks like this, called "Living Stones", at a plant store. I was delighted to find out they were alive. These plants are called succulents and they mimic rocks perhaps to escape being food for an animal or bird. Sometime in their growing cycle, beautiful flowers emerge. In my book, I took the idea of pebbles coming alive at the touch of Big Sparkler Geyser's sprinkles from the real-life story of these plants. Truth is stranger than fiction!

