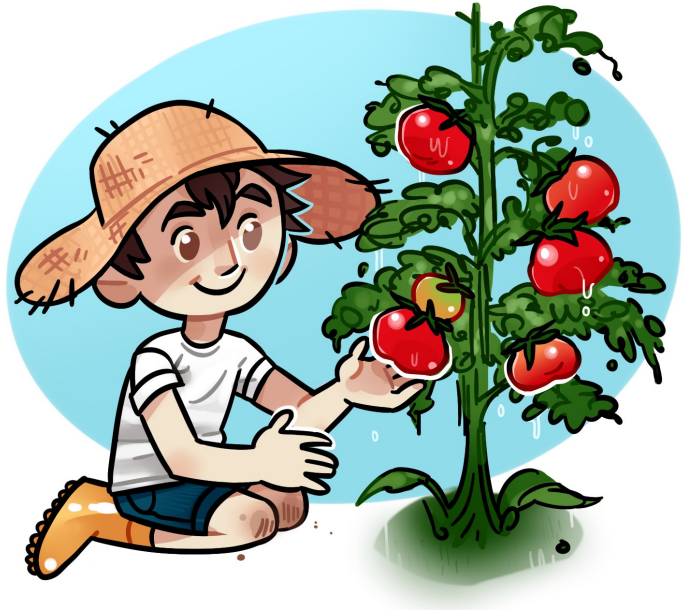


Name: _____

The Garden

by Anita Nahta Amin

The garden in my backyard hummed with the songs of summer twilight. Crickets hiding under lush green foliage chirped around me. Bumblebees buzzed along thick honeysuckle vines bordering the back of the garden. Maple tree leaves rustled in the soft evening breeze.



The setting sun cast shadows on the patches of red clay between the rows of green plants. There were plants of all sizes: tall, short, thick, thin and climbing. Some plants had flowers. Others bowed with plump red tomatoes, long green beans, shiny chili peppers, or round purple eggplants. On the far left, a watermelon patch sprawled out. Leaves glistened from a recent watering.

In the front right corner, clumps of spiky grass poked from the ground. I pulled one clump and unearthed a small orange carrot. Brushing the damp dirt off, I tossed it into my basket.

Squelch, squelch. My shoes left imprints in the red clay as I moved farther back into the garden. Swatting a mosquito away, my arm brushed against the wet leaves of a tomato plant taller than my knees. I bent down to pluck a slippery ripe cherry tomato and bit into it. Sweet tangy juice oozed out and warmed my tongue. *Plunk.* Two handfuls of tomatoes joined the lonely carrot in my basket.

Past the tomatoes, a small **kerala** patch spread across the ground. My hand

covered one of the hard oval bumpy green Indian squashes. Although too bitter for me, my mom and dad would relish it. *Snip*. I cut a few from the vine with my scissors.

To my right, a **loki** vine climbed so high and thick I couldn't see through the metal link fence it covered. Light green Indian squashes the size of baseball bats hung from the vine. They were too heavy for me to carry so I left them there.

I moved to my left to a small bare mound between the kerala patch and green bean plants. The clay was freshly packed. Yesterday, I had secretly planted a peach pit hoping a tree full of juicy peaches would grow.

Walking next to the honeysuckle vines, I continued to the left. Delicate white buds dotted glossy dark green leaves against a wooden fence. The sweet smell of honeysuckle was intoxicating but I didn't get too close; I didn't want a bee sting.

In front of me, most of the chili peppers were still green but a few had aged to carnation red. I reached for a red pepper the size of my index finger. My hand tingled from its spicy heat. I quickly dropped it in my basket.

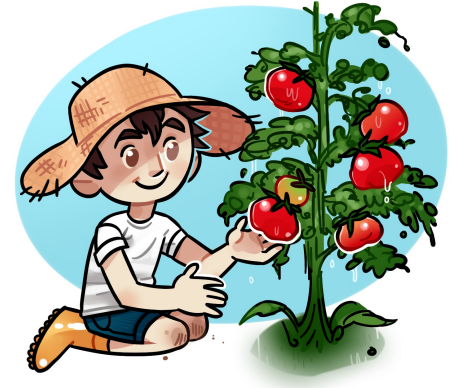
A red ladybug sat on a dewy green bean leaf. I snapped a handful of smooth green beans from the fragile plant. Water droplets sprayed my arm. The ladybug fluttered away.

It was time for me to leave too. I ran out of the garden and back to my house where mom would cook our garden dinner.

Name: _____

The Garden

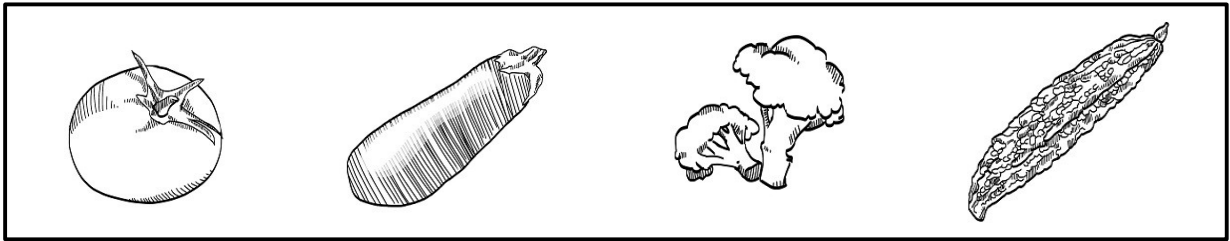
by Anita Nahta Amin



1. Which of the following vegetables did the boy **not** put in his basket?

- a. carrot
- b. tomato
- c. Indian squash
- d. turnip

2. Circle the **kerala** in the box below.



What evidence from the story helped you determine which vegetable to circle above?

3. Onomatopoeia is a word that imitates the sound that it describes, such as *boom* or *chirp*. List three examples of onomatopoeia from the story.

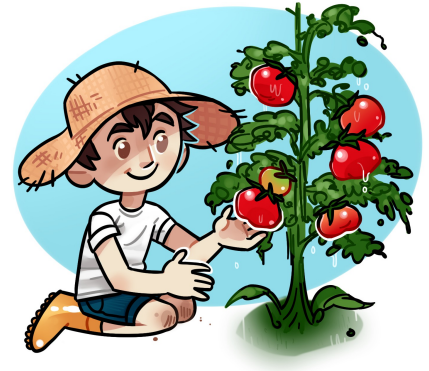
4. According to the story, what kind of soil is found in this garden? Circle the correct choice.

- a. fluffy mulch
- b. grainy sand
- c. red clay
- d. thick mud

Name: _____

The Garden

by Anita Nahta Amin



Fill in the missing letters to form a vocabulary word from the article. Then write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.

1. i m _ _ r _ _ n _ _
hint: a mark made by pressing into something

2. t _ _ n g _ _
hint: having a pleasantly sharp taste

3. f _ _ l i _ _ g _ _
hint: leaves on a tree or plant

4. _ _ _ u m _ _
hint: full and rounded

5. h _ _ n e _ _ s u _ _ k _ _ _
hint: a climbing plant that has many tiny flowers and smells sweet

6. f _ _ a _ _ _ l e
hint: easily broken; delicate; flimsy

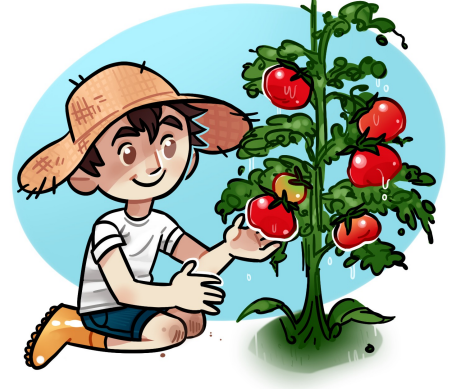
7. b _ _ t _ _ _ r
hint: having a bad taste

8. _ _ e l i _ _ _
hint: to enjoy or appreciate

ANSWER KEY

The Garden

by Anita Nahta Amin



1. Which of the following vegetables did the boy **not** put in his basket? **d.**

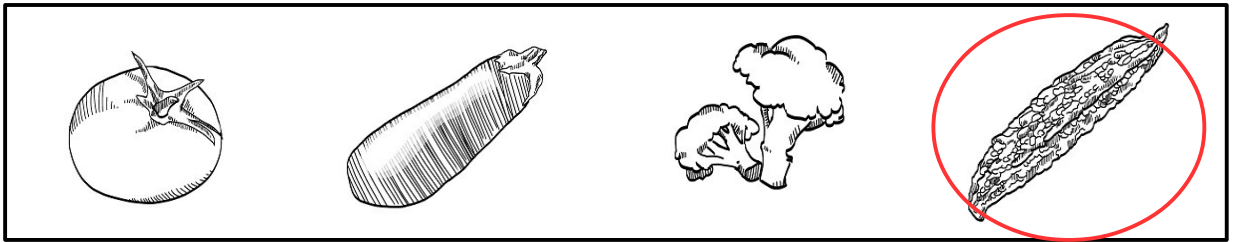
a. carrot

b. tomato

c. Indian squash

d. turnip

2. Circle the **kerala** in the box below.



What evidence from the story helped you determine which vegetable to circle above?

The kerala is oval and bumpy.

3. Onomatopoeia is a word that imitates the sound that it describes, such as *boom* or *chirp*. List three examples of onomatopoeia from the story.

squelch, plunk, snip (You may also want to accept hum, buzz, chirp)

4. According to the story, what kind of soil is found in this garden? Circle the correct choice.

c.

a. fluffy mulch

b. grainy sand

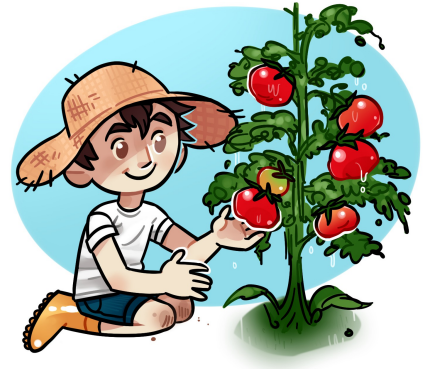
c. red clay

d. thick mud

ANSWER KEY

The Garden

by Anita Nahta Amin



Fill in the missing letters to form a vocabulary word from the article. Then write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.

1. i m **p** r i n **t** imprint
hint: a mark made by pressing into something
2. t **a** n g **y** tangy
hint: having a pleasantly sharp taste
3. f **o** l i **a** g e foliage
hint: leaves on a tree or plant
4. **p** l u m **p** plump
hint: full and rounded
5. h **o** n e **y** s u **c** k **l** e honeysuckle
hint: a climbing plant that has many tiny flowers and smells sweet
6. f **r** a **g** i l e fragile
hint: easily broken; delicate; flimsy
7. b **i** t **t** e r bitter
hint: having a bad taste
8. **r** e l i **s** **h** relish
hint: to enjoy or appreciate