

The Community Garden

by Olive Porter
illustrated by Dana Regan



HOUGHTON MIFFLIN

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HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT
School Publishers

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When Luz and her mom moved to their new apartment, Luz looked at the building. In the front, there was a sidewalk. On the left, there was another plain brick building. And on the right, there was a store.



🔊 Luz ran around to the back of their new building. A parking lot filled the whole backyard. Luz sighed.

🔊 At their old place, they had always planted a garden. Every summer, flowers were **blooming** and a wonderful **scent** filled the air. But here, there was no space for a garden.



🔊 The next day, Luz and her mom went for a walk. They saw two women with **shovels**.

🔊 “Do you have a garden?” asked Luz eagerly.

🔊 The women **nodded**. One said, “Yes we do.

🔊 It is a community garden. We’ll show you.”



As soon as they could, Luz and her mom joined the community garden. They got their own garden plot, and they met the other gardeners. Everyone was very friendly. Luz loved working in the garden.



🔊 Luz and her mom went to the garden every day. They pulled up weeds and raked the soil until their **muscles** were sore. Then they planted vegetable seeds.

🔊 All of the gardeners shared seeds, tools, and advice with each other.

🔊 One day Mrs. Katz asked, “Would you like some pepper seeds?”

🔊 Luz thanked Mrs. Katz and gave her some lettuce seeds.



🔊 The gardeners worked on their gardens all summer. They watered the plants and gave them special plant food to help them grow big. They cut off the **tough** vines. And they pulled up more weeds. There were always more weeds!



🔊 Luz and her mom saw their new friends at the garden almost every day. Everyone told stories and jokes while they worked. All the garden plots were full of vegetables.



🔊 In the fall, Mr. Simpson told Luz and Luz’s mom about a community potluck dinner. He explained, “Everyone will bring something made from their garden vegetables. I hope you will join us.”

🔊 “We would love to come,” said Mom.



🔊 Luz and her mom made a pizza for the dinner. They topped it with vegetables from their garden—juicy tomatoes, green peppers, and wrinkled onions.

🔊 The other gardeners all brought tasty food too. Everyone ate, and talked, and had a good time.

🔊 Luz and her mom couldn't wait to plant a garden next year!



Responding



TARGET SKILL

Conclusions

How do you think Luz feels at the end of the story? How do you know? Copy the chart below, and write details from the story.

Detail: Luz has a garden.	Detail: ?	Detail: ?
Conclusion: Luz feels ?		



Write About It

Text to Self Luz and her mom belong to a community garden. Use a few sentences to write a summary paragraph. Explain what it means to belong to a community garden. Then write if you would, or would not, like to belong to a community garden.



TARGET VOCABULARY

blooming
muscles
nodded
plain

scent
shovels
tough
wrinkled



TARGET SKILL

Conclusions Use details to figure out more about the text.



TARGET STRATEGY

Analyze/Evaluate

Tell how you feel about the text, and why.



GENRE Realistic fiction is a story that could happen in real life.

Level: J

DRA: 18

Genre:

Realistic Fiction

Strategy:

Analyze/Evaluate

Skill:

Conclusions

Word Count: 419

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