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Genre

Realistic
fiction

Comprehension
Skills and Strategy

- Cause and Effect
- Generalize
- Story Structure

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Gardening with Grandpa



by **Juliette Ruiz**
illustrated by **April Hartmann**





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Judy and May were sisters. They were at their grandfather's house. But they were bored doing nothing. They began to doze off. So they began to do each other's hair. "It's a beauty treatment!" Judy told her grandfather.

"My garden needs a beauty treatment too!" Gramps said. Recognizing his sense of humor, the girls followed Gramps outdoors.



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"There's nothing growing here!" said May.

"It's fall. Nothing grows now," said Judy.

"But we can fix that! Let's plant some bulbs," said Gramps.



"Bulbs? Like light bulbs?" asked Judy. Gramps showed the girls a bulb. It looked like a big seed. "We will plant this bulb now. Then a tulip will be blooming in the spring," he told them.





Gramps showed the girls how to push the bulbs into the dirt.

"The yard doesn't look like it had a beauty treatment yet," said Judy.

"It will when the spring showers come. Then these bulbs will start sprouting," said Gramps.



"Let's look at my flower books," said Gramps. "You girls can choose what we grow! Just remember, my garden gets a lot of sun. That means we need plants that love the sun."





The girls loved the books. "I want to plant some sunflowers!" May said. "I love daisies," said Judy. "And snapdragons."

"Then that's what we'll send for," said Gramps.



Gramps showed the girls a small green plant. "It looks like it has jaws!" said May. Gramps smiled.

"It does—in a way," he said. "This is a Venus's flytrap. It catches insects. In the spring, I'll plant it in the garden."





"What's missing in our backyard now?" Gramps asked. "What else do we need?"
"We need a rake, a hoe, gloves, and hats!" said Judy.



"My garden is going to be beautiful. Thank you, girls, for the beauty treatment," said Gramps.
"We got a treatment, too," said Judy.
"Now we are gardeners!"





Venus Flytrap

A Venus's Flytrap eats insects such as flies and crickets. It also likes spiders and slugs. These plants help gardens grow. Many people keep these plants inside their homes. The Venus's Flytrap grows outdoors along the coast of North and South Carolina. See if you can find those places on a map.



Reader Response

1. Why did Judy and May become interested in gardening? What happened when they went to Gramps's garden?
2. What kind of beauty treatments were the girls getting in the beginning of the story? What kind did they get in the end?
3. Here are two words that end in *-ing*: *recognizing* and *blooming*. Write sentences using each of these words.
4. What do you think makes a good garden? Draw a diagram of a garden similar to the one below. Label the flowers and plants. Then write a sentence about your garden.

