

A School in a Garden

by Sara Flannery

HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT

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A Garden Grows

 Alice Waters drove past the school every day, and it made her sad. The windows were dark and marked up. The grass was brown and dry. Ms. Waters used to be a teacher, so she worried about the school.

 Ms. Waters is an important **chef** who owns a famous **restaurant** in California. She believes in using good, fresh food. Her restaurant uses local food that is grown near by. That means that it doesn't take a lot of transportation to get the food to the kitchen.





Ms. Waters wanted to help her community. She had a meeting with adults at the school. She told them the school needed a garden.

The students would plant seeds and watch them grow. They would learn about taking care of their plants, and the garden would teach them about nature. Best of all, they would grow good food to eat at school.


🔊 Teachers and students cleaned up the empty lot next to the school. They put in plants that would be good to eat.

🔊 A cooking teacher came to the school. The teacher fixed up the lunchroom, which became a huge kitchen. Soon kids were taking cooking classes along with their other subjects.

By the end of the year, the garden was growing! Every year, the garden grew bigger. Now the garden is part of the school's culture.



Meet the Garden

 The garden is part of the school's science lessons. Each fall, a new class learns about the garden.

The new class walks into the garden. The students smell the plants. They taste the fruit and vegetables.







🔊 They pick corn, roast it, and eat it. The delicious corn was planted last spring to welcome the new class.

The students each choose a special spot in the garden. They can go there during class and write about what they see and hear and think.

They learn how to take care of garden tools. They find out how to clean up.


A Day in the Garden

 Each garden class begins with a meeting. The garden teacher tells about that day's chores. The teacher also asks a question. Students may be asked to find a certain plant, or to think about the names of foods in different languages. Students think about the question during class that day.


 Students then pick jobs and work in small groups. A garden teacher goes with each group. The students figure out what tools they will need, and then they get the tools from the tool shed.





 The tool shed also has coats, gloves, and boots to wear. These garden uniforms help keep clothes and shoes clean.

Some groups may plant seeds, and others may pick ripe fruit. Plants often need to be watered.

 The garden changes each **season**. In the winter, classes plant carrots, beets, and peas. In spring, they plant peppers, corn, and some berries. They plant garlic, onions, and clover in the fall.



🔊 The garden also has apple, plum, and fig trees. Students may try any fruits and vegetables they find. Smelling and tasting is part of class.


🔊 A chicken **coop** was added a couple of years ago. The chickens stay there at night and walk in the garden during the day. The class takes care of the chickens. The chickens give the class fresh eggs.


🔊 Some cooking is done right in the garden. There is a small stove where eggs or some vegetables can be cooked. There is a larger stove that is used to bake fresh pizza!

🔊 When a bell rings, it is time to clean up. The groups clean all the tools and put them where they belong. Then the students gather in a circle. They talk about the day's work. They answer the day's question.



In the Kitchen

 Kids have learned how to grow food. Cooking classes teach them how to turn the food into meals.

 Cooking classes always begin the same way. Students wash their hands, put on aprons, and then they gather around a big table. They hear about what delicious food they will make that day.







🔊 The class breaks into groups, and each group makes a part of the meal. The students use what is ripe in the garden. They may make soup or salad, or grind corn into flour.

🔊 Tables are set with plates for everyone. Flowers from the garden are placed on each table. The class enjoys the food together.

The Future

 Ms. Waters' garden idea changed one school. Now she wants to change other schools. Ms. Waters teaches adults and students how to start gardens at their own schools.

 People often don't know where their food comes from. Growing a garden can change that. Kids grow their own food, cook it, and are proud of what they make! Food is science, food is history, and food is art. A garden is a wonderful school.

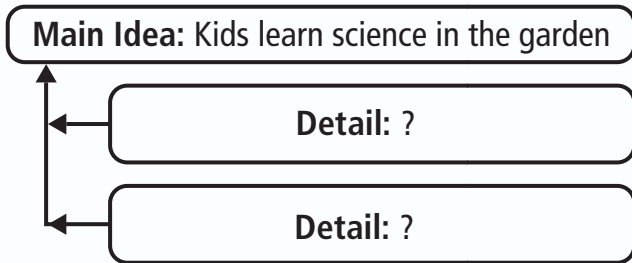


Responding



TARGET SKILL Main Idea and Details

A main idea of this book is that kids learn science in a garden. Copy the chart, and add details from the story.



Write About It

Text to World Think about something in your school that could be fixed or changed. Write a paragraph to persuade your classmates to work together to change something about your school.



TARGET VOCABULARY

community
culture
languages
lessons

special
subjects
transportation
wear

EXPAND YOUR VOCABULARY

chef
coop

restaurant
season



TARGET SKILL

Main Idea and Details

Tell important ideas and details about a topic.



TARGET STRATEGY

Analyze/Evaluate

Tell how you feel about the text, and why.



GENRE

Informational text gives facts about a topic.

Level: N

DRA: 30

Genre:

Informational Text

Strategy:

Analyze/Evaluate

Skill:

Main Idea and Details

Word Count: 887

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