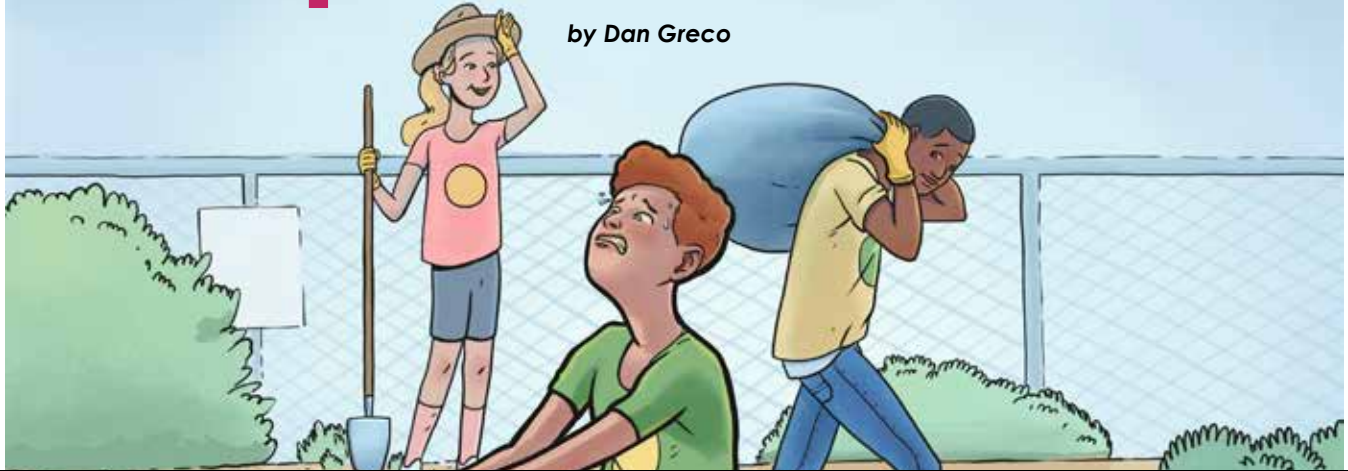


Name: _____

Help in the Garden

by Dan Greco



Preview

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The school garden presented quite the challenge. Overgrown weeds were everywhere, and the young tomato plants were noticeably wilted. Mr. Henderson, the garden club leader, sighed with a hint of resignation. "We've got a lot to do before the annual Harvest Festival," he announced to the assembled students. "I know we want everything to look perfect; let's just do the best we can."

This festival was a chance for

the garden club students to show off what they'd grown and share it with the community. But looking at the state of the garden, it felt like an impossible amount of work would be needed to prepare. How could it still be so overgrown? The club had been giving an honest effort for weeks, yet there was still so much to be done. A collective groan rippled through the group as they surveyed the daunting bed of weeds.

Name: _____

Victor, his hands proving a bit too small, struggled to dislodge stubborn roots near a thorny rose bush. Meanwhile, across the garden, Yura wrestled with a cumbersome bag of soil, which repeatedly threatened to slip from her grasp.

Liam observed both Victor and Yura with a keen eye. He recognized Victor's determined

as a pair, they effortlessly moved the soil to the thirsty tomato plants. Yura nodded her sincere appreciation, her shoulders visibly relaxing.

Other students began to take notice of Liam's actions. Seeing the immediate positive change in Victor and Yura (and the accelerated progress of their tasks), a few others were inspired to



Preview

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Liam approached Victor first. "Want some help?" he asked gently. "Sometimes, pulling together makes these roots come out more easily." With Liam's added strength, the two swiftly cleared the tenacious weeds. Victor offered a grateful, relieved smile.

Next, Liam moved to Yura. "That bag is a monster," he remarked. "Let's tackle it together." Working

the garden—though still a work in progress—had seen remarkable improvement. Victor and Yura felt both relieved and encouraged, and Liam experienced a deep sense of quiet satisfaction, knowing his simple acts helped create a positive atmosphere for everyone. He learned that kindness, extended freely, enriches the giver, empowers the receiver, and subtly encourages goodness in all who witness it.

Name: _____

Help in the Garden

By Dan Greco



1. Which trait does Liam show when he offers to help Victor and Yura?
 - a. kindness
 - b. patience
 - c. honesty
 - d. bravery
2. In the story, Liam thinks about the saying, "A little help, freely given, can create a wave of good." In your own words, explain what this means.

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- c. plant seeds
 - d. remove weeds
4. Why did Yura's shoulders relax after moving the soil?
 - a. Her arms no longer hurt from carrying the heavy soil.
 - b. She felt relieved that she was able to move the soil with Liam's help.
 - c. She became calm because she was no longer mad at Liam.
 - d. She felt relieved that the garden was finally ready for the festival.
 5. Why did other students start helping each other after Liam helped Victor and Yura?

Name: _____

Help in the Garden



Match each vocabulary word from the story with the correct definition.

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 1. ____ resignation | a. hard to handle because of size or heaviness |
| 2. ____ daunting | b. a feeling of being annoyed or discouraged because you can't do something |



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unwanted will likely happen

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 6. ____ tenacious | f. having to do with multiple people working together to achieve something |
| 7. ____ accelerated | g. intimidating or scary |
| 8. ____ collaborative | h. improves by adding something |
| 9. ____ enriches | i. quickened |
| 10. ____ empowers | j. remove something that is stuck |

Name: _____

Help in the Garden

In the story, *Help in the Garden*, Liam shows kindness by offering help to Victor and Yura. On the lines below, write about a time when you showed kindness to someone. Did this improve your relationship with the person? How did you feel afterward? How do you think they felt?



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ANSWER KEY

Help in the Garden

By Dan Greco



1. Which trait does Liam show when he offers to help Victor and Yura?

Preview

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A cartoon superhero with brown hair, wearing a red suit with a blue cape and a blue shield on his chest with the letters 'MJS'. He is flying through a blue sky with white clouds and a blue streak behind him, suggesting speed.

and Yura or the increased speed of completing the tasks when working together.

ANSWER KEY

Help in the Garden



Match each vocabulary word from the story with the correct definition.

1. e resignation

a. hard to handle because of size or



10. c empowers

j. remove something that is stuck