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





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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 karela 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 karela 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 arow.



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:		
Name.		

by Anita Nahta Amin

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

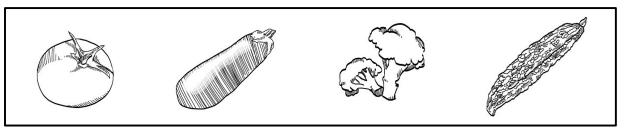
b. tomato

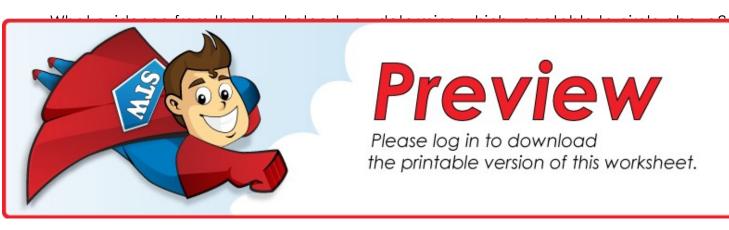
c. turnip

d. red pepper









- **4.** According to the story, what kind of soil is found in this garden?
 - a. fluffy mulch
 - **b.** grainy sand
 - **c.** red clay
- d. thick mud

Name:

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. im__r_n__

hint: a mark made by pressing into something

2. t ___ n g ___ ____

hint: having a pleasantly sharp taste





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and smells sweet

6. f __ a __ l e ____

hint: easily broken; delicate; flimsy

7. b ___ t ___ r _____

hint: having a bad taste

8. ___eli____

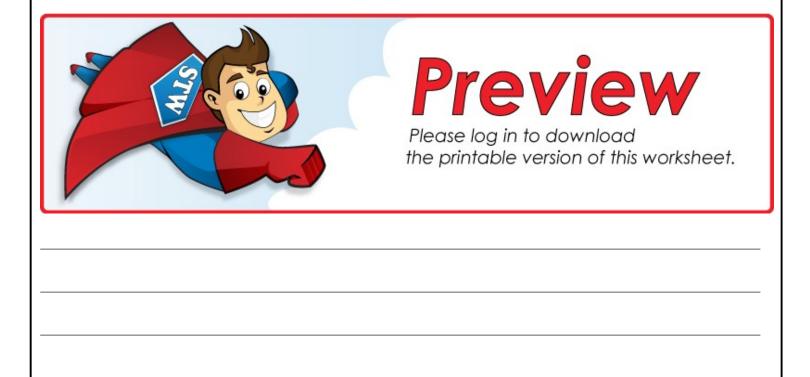
hint: to enjoy or appreciate

by Anita Nahta Amin

In the story "The Garden", the boy experiences his family's garden with his five senses (sight, sound, smell, touch, and taste).

On the lines below, describe your favorite place in nature (your backyard, a park, a hiking trail) using all five senses. Be sure to write in complete sentences.





ANSWER KEY

The Garden

by Anita Nahta Amin

1. Which of the following vegetables did the boy not put



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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.





8. $\underline{r} \in Ii \underline{s} \underline{h}$ relish

hint: to enjoy or appreciate