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.

In the front right corner, clumps of spiky grass poked from the ground. I pulled one clump and unearthed a small orange carrot. Brushing the damp dirt off, I tossed it 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 *kerala* 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.

In front of me, most of the chili peppers were still green but a few had aged to carnation red. I reached for a red pepper the size of my index finger. My hand tingled from its spicy heat. I quickly dropped it in my basket.

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.
1. Which of the following vegetables did the boy not put in his basket?
   a. carrot    b. tomato
   c. Indian squash    d. turnip

2. Circle the kerala in the box below.

3. Onomatopoeia is a word that imitates the sound that it describes, such as boom or chirp. List three examples of onomatopoeia from the story.

   ________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________

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

1. i m ___ r ___ n ___   ______________________________________
   hint: a mark made by pressing into something

2. t ___ n g ___   _____________________________________________
   hint: having a pleasantly sharp taste

3. f ___ l i ___ g ___   _________________________________________
   hint: leaves on a tree or plant

4. _________
   ~PREVIEW~
   Please log in or register to download the printable version of this worksheet.

5. ______________________________________

6. f ___ a ___ ___ l e   _________________________________________
   hint: easily broken; delicate; flimsy

7. b ___ t ___ ___ r   _________________________________________
   hint: having a bad taste

8. ___ e l i ___ ___   _________________________________________
   hint: to enjoy or appreciate
The Garden

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.

__________________________________________________________________________________________
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Please log in or register to download the printable version of this worksheet.
1. Which of the following vegetables did the boy not put in his basket?  
   a. carrot  
   b. tomato  
   c. Indian squash  
   d. turnip

2. Circle the kerala in the box below. 

   What evidence from the story helped you determine which vegetable to circle above? 
   The kerala is oval and bumpy.

3. Onomatopoeia is a word that imitates the sound that it describes, such as boom or chirp. 
   List three examples of onomatopoeia from the story. 
   squelch, plunk, snip (You may also want to accept hum, buzz, chirp)

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

1. imprin
   hint: a mark made by pressing into something
   ~imprint~

2. tangy
   hint: having a pleasantly sharp taste
   ~tangy~

3. foliage
   hint: leaves on a tree or plant
   ~foliage~

4. plump
   hint: full and rounded
   ~plump~

5. honeysuckle
   hint: a climbing plant that has many tiny flowers and smells sweet
   ~ honeysuckle ~

6. fragile
   hint: easily broken; delicate; flimsy
   ~ fragile ~

7. bitter
   hint: having a bad taste
   ~ bitter ~

8. relish
   hint: to enjoy or appreciate
   ~ relish ~

Please log in or register to download the printable version of this worksheet.