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.

I moved to my left to a small bare mound between the kerala 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 grow.

Walking next to the honeysuckle vines, I continued to the left. Delicate white buds dotted glossy dark green leaves against a wooden fence. The sweet smell of honeysuckle was intoxicating but I didn’t get too close; I didn’t want a bee sting.

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.
The Garden
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

2. Circle the kerala in the box below.
What evidence from the story helped you determine which vegetable to circle above?
_______________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________

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?
   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. ___  ___ u m ___  _______________________________________
   hint: full and rounded

5. h ___ n e ___ s u ___ k ___  ___  _______________________________________
   hint: a climbing plant that has many tiny flowers and smells sweet

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

7. b ___  t ___  ___  _______________________________________
   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.

__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
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__________________________________________________________________________________________

Preview
Please log in to download the printable version of this worksheet.
The Garden
by Anita Nahta Amin

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

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?
   c.
   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. imprint

hint: a mark made by pressing into something

2. tangy

hint: having a pleasantly sharp taste

3. foliage

hint: leaves on a tree or plant

4. plump

hint: full and rounded

5. honeysuckle

hint: a climbing plant that has many tiny flowers and smells sweet

6. fragile

hint: easily broken; delicate; flimsy

7. bitter

hint: having a bad taste

8. relish

hint: to enjoy or appreciate

8. relish

hint: to enjoy or appreciate