

Name _____

The Gardener
Vocabulary

- Use the Vocabulary Words to complete the sentences in the letter. Some words will be used twice.

anxious **recognizing** **adore** **vacant** **sprucing** **retire**

Dear Uncle Jim,

I'm glad to be back home with Mama, Papa, and Grandma, but at the same time, I miss you. I really did (1) _____ living in the city and making the (2) _____ rooftop into a flower garden paradise.

Since I've been home, I've been busy (3) _____ up my room. I did not (4) _____ as a gardener, either! There is a (5) _____ lot outside my window where I have planted all kinds of colorful flowers. I am (6) _____ to send you a picture as soon as the flowers are in full bloom.

I'm growing even faster than the flowers. (7) _____ me will be a challenge for you next time I visit.

I know you still must be working hard in the bakery, since you are too young to (8) _____! Please send my love to Ed and Emma, whom I (9) _____. I am (10) _____ to see you all again!

Your loving niece,
Lydia Grace

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Create word pairs with the Vocabulary Words. You may pair each word with a synonym or with an antonym—for example, pair *vacant* with *empty* or with *full*.

Name _____

HOMEWORK

The Gardener

**Narrative
Elements**

TEST PREP

- Read the story. Then circle the letter of the best answer to each question.

One afternoon in spring, Dawn was looking at the straight rows in Grandpa's garden. Suddenly she called, "Look! A bunny! Grandpa, it hopped right over your tomato plants."

"Oh, no," Grandpa groaned. "That rabbit is heading for my lettuce patch. It eats every lettuce leaf it can find. What can I do? I don't have enough wire to put a fence around the whole garden."

"I can solve your problem, Grandpa," Dawn promised.

The next morning Grandpa found Dawn making a pile of pulled dandelions in a corner of the garden. "What are you doing out here so early?" he asked.

"I'm making dandelion salad for the bunny, Grandpa. You don't need the weeds, and the rabbits like these as much as lettuce."

- 1 Who are the main characters?

A Grandpa and a rabbit
B Grandpa and a gardener
C Dawn and Grandpa
D Dawn and a rabbit



Tip

Find the names of the most important characters in the story.

- 2 Where does the story happen?

F in an apartment building
G on a farm
H in a park
J in Grandpa's garden



Tip

Look for words such as *in*, *on*, or *at* that tell where the story takes place.

- 3 What is Grandpa's problem?

A Dawn doesn't help Grandpa.
B Dawn doesn't like rabbits.
C A rabbit is eating Grandpa's lettuce.
D Grandpa grows too much lettuce.



Tip

Notice that Grandpa signals his problem with the words *Oh, no* and *What can I do?*



SCHOOL-HOME CONNECTION Help your child write a scene like the one above. Include characters, a setting, and a plot. When you're finished, have your child read the scene aloud.

- Read the letter. Then write *Yes* or *No* after each statement to indicate whether a reader could correctly make that inference.

Dear Aunt Eva,

We had a great time planting our garden today. We met at the empty lot. Some of us walked or rode bikes. Others came by car or bus. The sky was cloudy, but everyone felt cheerful.

I'm afraid that bringing Ruff was a mistake. He's a sweet dog, but he loves to dig and run. He even tried to jump over the fence! Liz grabbed him and brought him back to me. I kept Ruff on his leash after that.

Ms. Kwan gave us many kinds of seeds to plant. There were zinnias, sunflowers, marigolds, cosmos, and many more. We dug holes, dropped the seeds into the ground, and covered them up with dirt. I had the best job of all—using the hose to water the seeds. Ms. Kwan even brought some tulip and daffodil bulbs for us to plant!

When we finished planting, Ms. Kwan had a picnic ready for us. We all had a terrific day. I wish you could have been here! You would have loved it.

Love,

Anita

1. The children are going to sell the vegetables from the garden they planted. _____
2. Liz and Anita are friends. _____
3. Anita's aunt likes planting flowers. _____
4. The garden is in Ms. Kwan's yard. _____
5. Anita likes to tell her aunt about her activities. _____
6. Ruff is Ms. Kwan's dog. _____
7. The children all live in the same neighborhood. _____
8. It didn't rain on the day they planted the garden. _____
9. At least four people helped plant the garden. _____
10. Anita and her aunt live in the same house _____



SCHOOL-HOME CONNECTION For each statement to which your child answered Yes, help him or her underline the parts of the letter that support this inference.

Name _____

- If the words form a sentence, write *sentence*. If not, think of words to make the sentence complete. Write the new sentence.

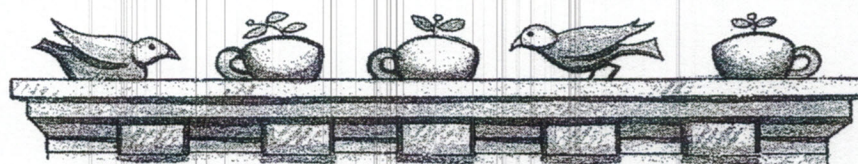
1. Many people from the country.

2. Made her uncle very happy.

3. The cat slept on Lydia Grace's bed.

4. She enjoys gardening.

5. Uncle Jim's friend Emma.



- Rewrite these sentences. Begin and end them correctly.

6. she planted seeds in cracked cups

7. is her story a bit sad

8. the girl left her family behind

9. did she move to a strange place

10. she seems very brave and clever

Name _____

The Gardener

Spelling: Words
with Long and
Short a

Skill Reminder The long *a* sound can be spelled *ay*, *a-e*, or *ea*. The short *a* sound is usually spelled *a*.

- Fold the paper along the dotted line. As each spelling word is read aloud, write it in the blank. Then unfold your paper, and check your work. Practice any spelling words you missed.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____
16. _____
17. _____
18. _____
19. _____
20. _____

SPELLING WORDS

1. *played*
2. *escape*
3. *thank*
4. *subway*
5. *gray*
6. *safely*
7. *mistake*
8. *greatest*
9. *break*
10. *after*
11. *planting*
12. *scratch*
13. *address*
14. *holiday*
15. *natural*
16. *paragraph*
17. *blanket*
18. *capital*
19. *taken*
20. *cabin*

