



## Rose Village

A farmer lives in a village that only grows red roses. What will happen when he plants strange seeds from a box he finds in his basement?





Rose Village  
Su Nyein Chan

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# Let's Read



**The Asia Foundation**



A long time ago, there was a small village where everyone grew red roses. Every part of the village was beautiful because of their red rose gardens. The village's reputation for growing beautiful red roses was known far and wide.





But no one in the village knew why they all grew the same kind of red rose. Some villagers thought it was because their ancestors had grown that kind of red rose. Others believed that if they did not grow the same red rose, they would be cursed.



One day, an old man in the village found a box of strange seeds in his basement. The old man was surprised. He didn't know how the seeds got into his basement. He decided to plant the seeds in his garden.





The old man tended his new plants with great care. When the flowers bloomed, his garden was filled with many kinds of colorful flowers.





The villagers were all surprised to see a mixture of yellow, blue, violet, and white flowers blooming in the middle of their red roses.





Many thought that the old man would be cursed. So they urged him to remove the colorful flowers as soon as possible. The old man replied that he could not destroy the garden that he had cared for himself.



The villagers were disappointed with the old man and ignored him and his colorful flower garden. The old man struggled going about with his daily farming while his neighbors ignored him.





One day, an artist from the royal palace arrived in the village. The king had learned of the village's reputation for beautiful flowers, so he had sent this artist to paint them. The villagers happily welcomed the artist and showed him around their gardens of red roses.



The artist looked at the gardens, then he chose a hill nearby and began painting. The villagers waited to see what his painting would look like. When the painting was finished, the villagers were amazed by the colorful flowers he drew. But one villager said that the painter would be cursed.



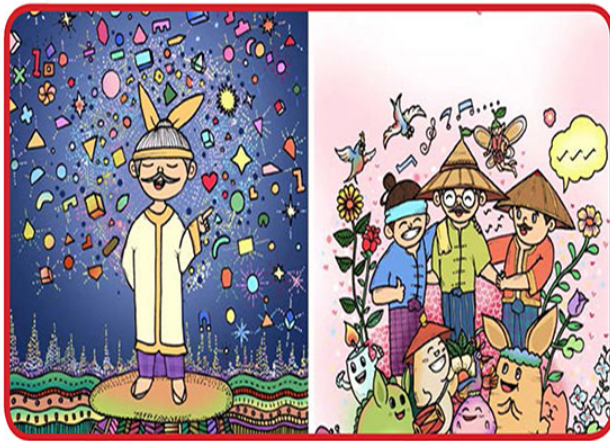


The painter replied that different colors and different shapes are needed to create beautiful art. Being different is not a curse but a thing of beauty. The villagers realized that he was right and stopped believing in the curse. They embraced the old gardener, and everyone enjoyed his colorful flowers.









1. What did the villagers think would happen if they planted something besides red roses? 2. What colors were the flowers from the old man's seed box? 3. What did the artist from the royal palace say to the villagers? 4. Which colors do you like? Why do you like them?



## *Third Story Project*

This book was created through a book development workshop conducted in collaboration between Third Story Project and The Asia Foundation. The Third Story Project creates and produces children's books in Burmese and other Myanmar languages to distribute free of charge to children around Myanmar. The stories are written and illustrated by Myanmar artists for a Myanmar audience and address issues of peace, tolerance, diversity, gender, environment, and child rights.



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