



Rooftop Garden

Tita wants a roof full of beautiful plants but what can she do to help them grow?



Rooftop Garden
Kim Ann Arun



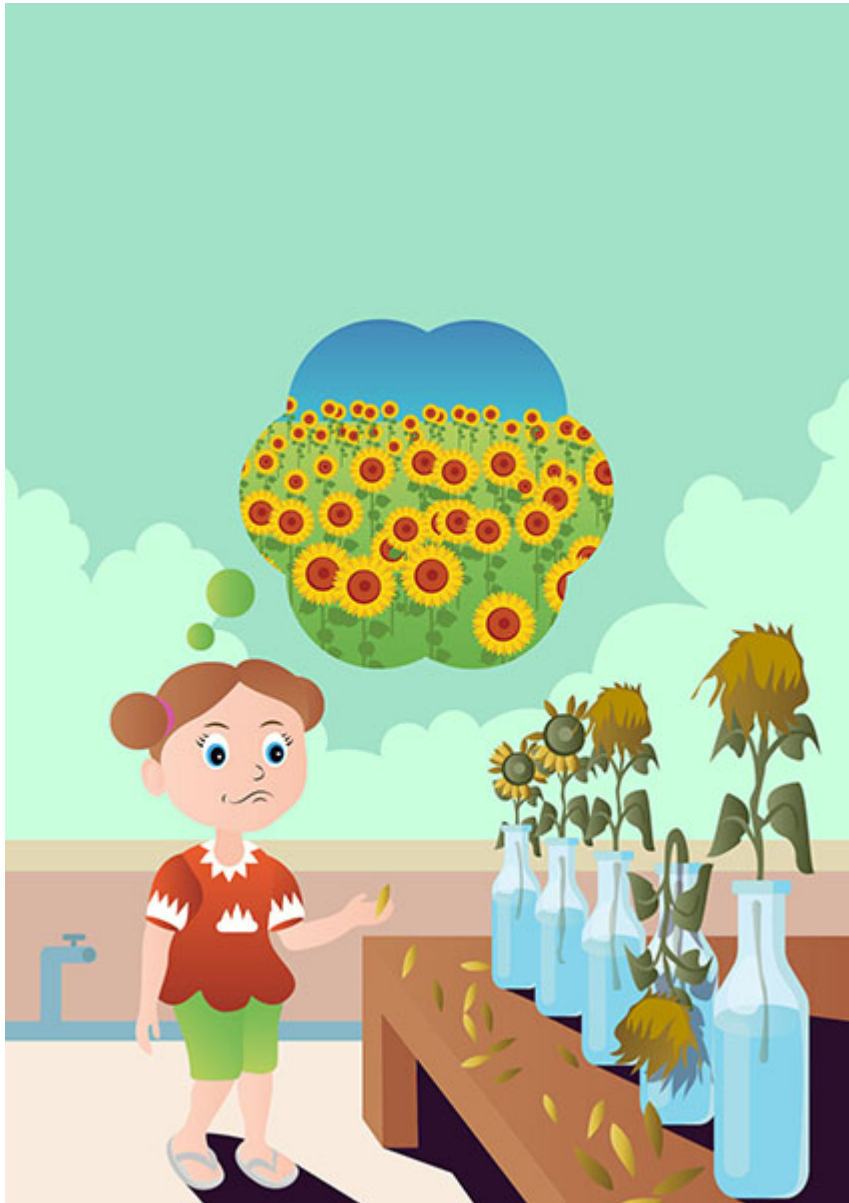
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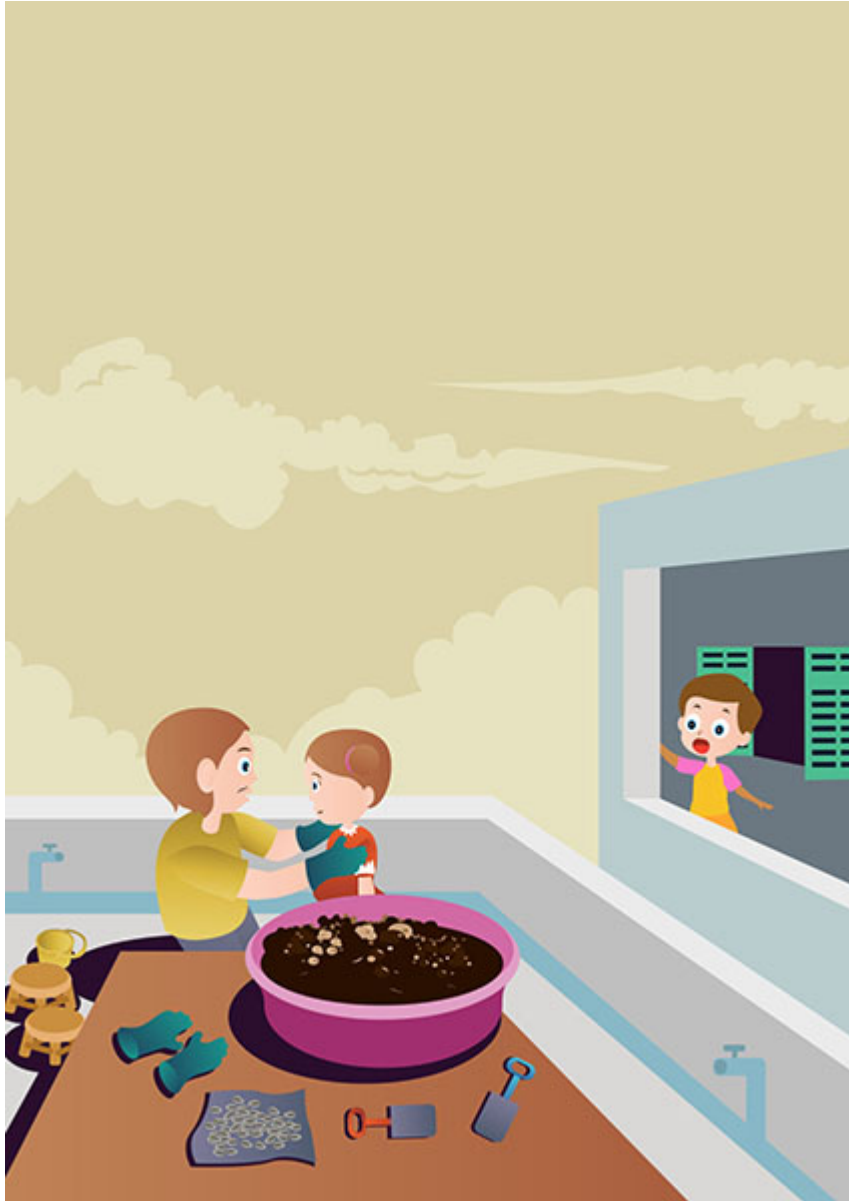
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The view from Tita's rooftop is not very beautiful. There is a large factory that spouts smoke behind her home. So Tita decides to put some sunflowers on the roof to make it prettier.



But the sunflowers soon wilt. Tita wishes she could have flowers on the roof all the time. But how will she do it?



On the weekend, Tita asks her father if he will help her. "I want flowers here all the time, Dad. But how will we keep them alive?" she asks. "We will plant a garden! I have brought a large container for soil and seeds to plant. We will work together to help this garden grow and thrive for a long time."



Her family works hard to prepare the soil for planting. But when Tita starts to dig in the dirt, she gets a surprise. "Worms, yuck!" she exclaims. "Worms are important for a garden, Tita," her father says. "They help the plants to grow." Tita is not sure she likes worms yet, but she will keep them if they will help her garden.



When it is time to water the plants, Tita pours a whole bucket of water on the plants. "Drink up seeds, so you will grow quickly!" she tells her plants. "Stop, Tita! Not so much," Tita's mother says. "The plants only need a little water at a time."



"But I want them to grow up fast!" Tita complains. "A garden needs time to grow," her mother reminds her gently. "I know it is hard, but you must be patient."



A week later, the seeds have begun to sprout! It is time to transfer each plant into its own pot. Tita is excited. She rushes to tug the plants out of the soil. "Be gentle, Tita," her mother says. "If you break off the roots, they will not grow."



Together, Tita's family plants the little sprouts in new pots. Then Tita's father begins to make boxes for more flowers to grow. Tita makes a sign for her garden.



Tita has learned everything she needs to know about caring for her garden. Before long, the flowers begin to bloom!



One evening, Tita picks some of her sunflowers to display on the dinner table. As she carries the flowers inside, she notices her mother cooking some vegetables. "Mom, can we grow vegetables in our garden too?" "What a great idea, Tita! Let's do it."



Before long, Tita's garden has covered the roof. She is growing flowers, carrots, onions, eggplants, and many other wonderful (and delicious) things!



Now everyone in the neighborhood enjoys the view of Tita's garden instead of the smoky factory. They all ask her for advice on planting. Maybe next year they will make rooftop gardens too!





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