

Book Title: The Ugly Vegetables

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Introduction

Begin by asking students:

- What do you usually grow in a garden?
- Does everything look the same?
- What is the most unusual thing you have seen growing?

This is a story about a girl and her garden that isn't like everyone else's. She thinks her garden is ugly because it looks different from her neighbor's - but is different bad?

Read and Discuss

Introduce vocabulary: poppies, peonies, petunias

Possible discussion questions:

- Why doesn't the girl like her family's garden at first?
- What makes her change her mind?
- What happens when her mom makes soup?
- How can differences make our communities stronger?

Activity

Vegetable Comparison

- Divide students into small groups and give each group a picture or sample of two different vegetables (e.g., a carrot and a bitter melon).
- Have students compare the vegetables, noting their shape, color, and texture.
- Ask:
 - How are they the same? How are they different?
 - Does one look 'uglier' than the other? Why do you think that is?
 - Is either one better than the other?
 - What is something that may seem ugly at first, but can become special when we learn more about it?

Explain that just as vegetables in a garden all look and taste different, each one is important and useful in its own way. Likewise, each person in a community, regardless of how they look or where they are from, is important in their own way.