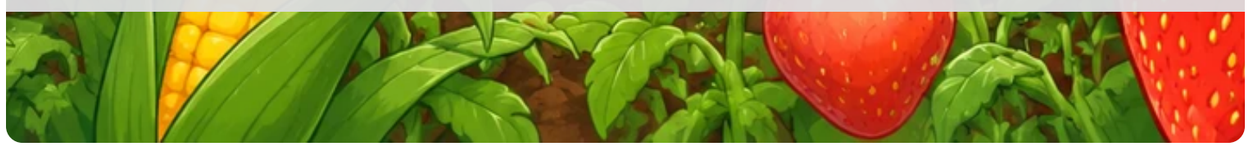


The Great Garden Mix-Up

Jennifer Ruby Schembri





Bright morning sun shines over the school garden where Ms. Jennifer, Ms. Christina, Ms. Anita, and Ms. Sylvana are getting ready to plant fresh seeds with their cheerful students. Rows of rich brown soil wait patiently for colorful fruits and crunchy vegetables to grow under the care of the four dedicated teachers.



Tiny green shoots poke their heads out of the dirt, and soon shiny red strawberries, plump orange carrots, and crispy green broccoli begin to sprout in neat little rows. Ms. Jennifer waters the tomatoes while Ms. Christina ties up the bean stalks, making sure every plant gets plenty of sunshine and love.



One magical moonlight night, the garden gets a little bit silly as a gentle breeze tickles the leaves and causes a sudden, giggly awakening. The fruits and vegetables decide to play a funny trick on the teachers by swapping places in the garden beds overnight.



Ms. Anita arrives early in the morning and gasps in absolute surprise when she sees bright purple eggplants hanging from apple trees and fuzzy kiwi fruits hiding underground like potatoes. She rubs her eyes in disbelief as a cheerful strawberry smiles right back at her from the top of a tall cornstalk.



Ms. Sylvana walks over with her watering can and nearly drops it when she spots crunchy orange carrots growing upside down in the berry bushes. The students arrive with their lunchboxes and point at the wacky garden with fits of unstoppable giggles and happy cheers.



Pip the Pea, a particularly cheeky little green pea, pops right out of a pea pod and wears a bright yellow banana peel like a funny wig. The children laugh out loud as they try to guess which fruit is pretending to be a vegetable and which vegetable is acting like a fruit.



Ms. Jennifer and Ms. Christina put on their silly detective glasses to inspect the mixed-up plants while the students hold up big picture cards to help solve the garden puzzle. Everyone works together as a team to gently guide the playful produce back to where they truly belong.



With a chorus of friendly cheers, the strawberries bounce back to the berry patch, the carrots slide back into the soft soil, and the apples return safely to their leafy branches. The garden looks neat and orderly once again, but everyone can still hear tiny giggles echoing from the cucumber patch.



To celebrate their exciting morning, the four teachers and their students harvest a giant basket of healthy fruits and crunchy vegetables to make a rainbow salad together. Colorful bell peppers, juicy watermelon slices, and crisp celery sticks are washed and chopped for a delicious class snack.



Sitting together on bright picnic blankets under the afternoon sun, the children proudly hold up their favorite fruits and vegetables while the teachers share a warm, joyful smile. The garden sparkles with happiness, proving that a little bit of silly fun makes learning about healthy food the best adventure ever.