

## A Growing Plan

Does your school have a garden?

<sup>1</sup> Drew, Emilio, and Michi sat at a picnic table in the park on a beautiful, crisp fall afternoon. The air around them was filled with the sounds of children playing, dogs barking, and people laughing or calling to one another. But Drew, Emilio, and Michi ignored the sounds around them and focused on the task they had set out to complete.

<sup>2</sup> They wanted to start a school garden at Jefferson Middle School. Initially, it had been Drew's idea. He had first seen a school garden when he went to visit his cousin P.J. in Washington. He was amazed at the variety of fruits and vegetables the students at P.J.'s school grew. "It's a lot of work," P.J. had warned. "But it's also my favorite part of the week. I love putting on my boots, getting outside, and seeing all the new things that have happened since I was last out there."

<sup>3</sup> When Drew returned from his trip to Washington, he told Emilio and Michi all about what he had seen. Now the three of them were determined to come up with a plan to bring a school garden to Jefferson.

<sup>4</sup> Drew opened his notebook and prepared to record any ideas they had for convincing Ms. Milano, the school principal, that the garden was a good idea.

<sup>5</sup> "We're going to need an adult to supervise the whole operation," said Drew thoughtfully. "I know that Mr. Hasselbach gardens at home. Just last week he brought in a whole basket of tomatoes and zucchini from his garden. He might be willing to help." Drew jotted down Mr. Hasselbach's name in his notebook.

<sup>6</sup> "We might need donations to get this project up and running," added Michi. "We could tell Ms. Milano that we would be willing to organize a bake sale or yard sale to raise funds."

<sup>7</sup> "That's a great idea," said Emilio. "I think we need to be able to present her with a realistic plan. My aunt is the co-owner of a nursery. She could help us design the garden, select plants, and create a budget. That way, Ms. Milano wouldn't feel as though she were committing to something unknown."

<sup>8</sup> Drew nodded and made some more notes. "P.J. mentioned that the students at his school cook meals with the produce from their garden. If we do something like that too, think of all the lessons we'd learn. We'd have to measure and weigh things and follow a recipe. Combine that with the science lessons we'd get from working in the garden, and there's no way Ms. Milano could turn us down!"

<sup>9</sup> Michi and Emilio grinned. "If everything goes as planned, we'll be digging in the dirt in no time at all!"



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12

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