



The Gigantic Turnip

The Gigantic Turnip

You are about to hear a story called "The Gigantic Turnip." A turnip is a plant that some people grow in their gardens.

What do you know about gardens? What are some plants that people grow in gardens? Why do people plant gardens?

The Gigantic Turnip

One reason people have gardens is to grow food, such as turnips, to eat. Some people like to eat the turnip leaves, or greens, that grow above ground. Another part of the turnip that people like to eat grows underground and is actually the root of the plant. When a farmer wants to harvest a turnip, he has to dig it up or pull the root out of the ground. This story is about a very large turnip.

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Listen carefully to find out who helps the farmer pull the turnip out of the ground.



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Once upon a time there was an old man who planted vegetable seeds every year, to grow vegetables for himself and his wife.

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One spring day, he planted turnip seeds in a field just over the hill from his house. He let the sun shine on them and the rain water them, and when he thought they should be ready to eat, he went to have a look.

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As he came up over the hill, to his surprise he saw a strange bush growing in the middle of the field. When he drew nearer, he saw that it was not bush, but the top of a gigantic turnip! Gigantic means very large. **What part of the turnip plant was the farmer looking at?**

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"I've never seen a turnip as big as this one!" he said to himself. "I must show it to my wife!"

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So he took hold of the turnip top, and with a great grunt, he pulled and pulled and pulled, but the turnip would not **budge**. When something will not budge, that means it will not move. So the old man shouted for his wife to come and help. “All right,” said the old woman. “I’m coming.”

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The old woman took hold of the old man, the old man took hold of the turnip, and they pulled and pulled. but they couldn't pull the turnip out of the ground. So the old woman called to their granddaughter.

"All right," said the granddaughter. "I'm coming."

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The granddaughter took hold of the old woman, the old woman took hold of the old man, the old man took hold of the turnip, and they pulled and pulled, but they couldn't pull the turnip out. So the granddaughter called the grandson over.

"All right," said the grandson. "I'm coming."

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The grandson took hold of the granddaughter, the granddaughter took hold of the old woman, the old woman took hold of the old man, the old man took hold of the turnip, and they pulled and pulled, but they couldn't pull the turnip out. So they

Why do you think the grandson called the dog over?

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The dog barked four times. If it could have spoken, it would have said, "All right. I'm coming."

The dog took hold of the grandson, the grandson took hold of the granddaughter, the granddaughter took hold of the old woman, the old woman took hold of the old man, the old man took hold of the turnip, and they pulled and pulled, but they couldn't pull the turnip out.

So the dog called the cat over.

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The cat meowed loudly. If it could have spoken, it would have said, "All right. I'm coming."

The cat took hold of the dog, the dog took hold of the grandson, the grandson took hold of the granddaughter, the granddaughter took hold of the old woman, the old woman took hold of the old man, the old man took hold of the turnip, and they pulled and pulled, but they couldn't pull the turnip out. So the cat called the mouse over.

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The mouse squeaked. If it could have spoken, it would have said, "All right. I'm coming."

Do you think they will be able to pull the turnip out with the mouse's help?

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The mouse took hold of the cat, the cat took hold of the dog, the dog took hold of the grandson, the grandson took hold of the granddaughter, the granddaughter took hold of the old woman, the old woman took hold of the old man, the old man took hold of the turnip, and they pulled and pulled.

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Finally, the turnip popped out, sending everybody tumbling along the ground.

What do you think the farmer and his family will do with the turnip?

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That evening, the old woman peeled the turnip, sliced it up, and cooked a delicious turnip stew. A stew is a type of soup.



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She invited the grandson, the granddaughter, the dog, the cat, and the mouse to eat the stew with them. She gave the mouse an extra helping, because he had shown that sometimes a little bit of help can make a big difference.

What does “a little bit of help can make a big difference” mean?

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Comprehension Questions:

Literal

Who are the characters in this story?

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Comprehension Questions:

Literal

What does the old man plant?

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Comprehension Questions:

Literal

What grows out of a turnip seed? (A TURNIP)

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Comprehension Questions:

Inferential

Why does the old man want to plant a turnip?

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Comprehension Questions:

Inferential

Why does the old man need so much help pulling the turnip out of the ground?

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Comprehension Questions:

Literal

Are all turnips as large as the turnip in the story?

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Comprehension Questions:

Inferential

Why does the mouse get an extra serving of turnip stew?

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Thumbs Up = Gigantic

Thumbs Down = Not Gigantic



a mouse the size of your thumb



The Gigantic Turnip



Thumbs Up = Gigantic

Thumbs Down = Not Gigantic



a mouse the size of a shoebox



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Thumbs Up = Gigantic

Thumbs Down = Not Gigantic



a person the size of your hand



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Thumbs Up = Gigantic

Thumbs Down = Not Gigantic



a pizza as big as a truck



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Thumbs Up = Gigantic

Thumbs Down = Not Gigantic



a book the size of a door



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Word Work

Explicit Vocabulary Instruction

The Gigantic Turnip

*In the read aloud you heard, “When (the farmer) drew nearer, he saw that it was not a bush, but the top of a **gigantic** turnip!”*

*Say the word **gigantic** with me.
Whisper gigantic to the ceiling.
Whisper gigantic to your neighbor.*

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Gigantic refers to something that is very, very large.
That house is **gigantic**--it has twenty bedrooms!

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*Tell about something you have seen that is gigantic. Try to use the word **gigantic** when you tell about it.*

*“I saw a **gigantic** ____.”*

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*What's the word we have been talking
about?*

Let's clap it out.

The Life Cycle of a Plant

