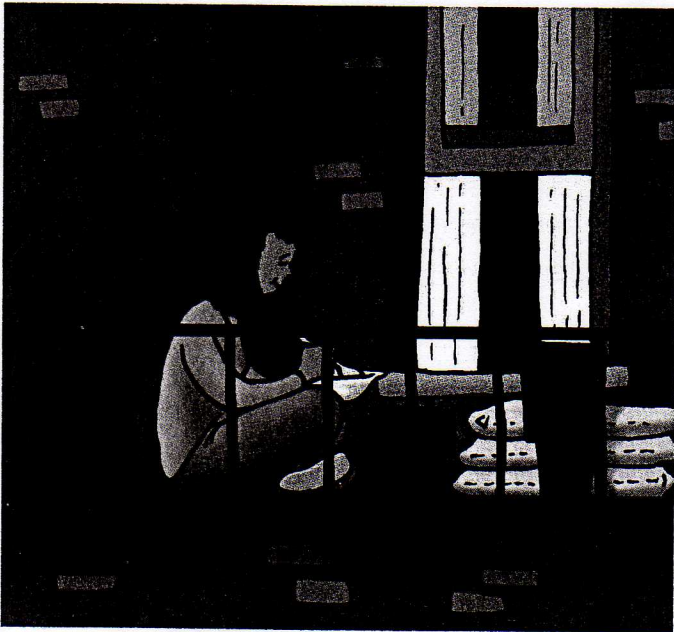


Planting Dreams

What does Rosa dream about?

¹ She was walking home from work one evening when she got the idea. Rosa didn't like her job at the factory, but it was better than no job at all. So, while she was trying not to think about work, she saw the pots stacked up in an alley. They were cheap plastic pots, but there were dozens of them piled up behind the flower shop. Such a waste, she thought. When the pots were still there three days later, Rosa went in and asked if she could take some. The flower shop lady said she didn't mind, so Rosa carried home a tower of pots, pretending she was a circus performer on the way.

² At home, Rosa set them on the fire escape outside her tiny apartment. And there they sat. Once a gust of wind sent them clattering to the street three floors below, and she had to go and chase them before the gathering storm.



³ Every day, Rosa went to work and thought about her pots. She was waiting for something, but she had patience.

⁴ At last, the newspaper brought good news. A hardware store had a sale on potting soil. Rosa carefully counted her money, then walked the six blocks to the store. She bought six bags and carried them home. She bought seeds, too. Rosa slept well that night and dreamed of masses of flowers and fat, glowing fruits.

⁵ Sundays were always good days. Rosa didn't have to work on Sundays. But Rosa couldn't remember when she had had *such* a good Sunday. She got up early and ate her breakfast on the fire escape with her pots. Then, she began to scoop dirt into the pots. She hummed a little song until all six of her bags of soil were empty. Then, she laid her precious seed packets out and planned her garden. Tomatoes for the biggest pots, and peppers for the next-biggest ones. Flowers in all the rest.

⁶ At the end of the day, Rosa sat in her garden and watched the sunset. *Soon*, she thought, *there will be masses of flowers and fat, glowing fruits.*

Vocabulary Skills

Circle the correct letters to complete each word. Write the letters in the blank.

- The pots were behind the flow_____ shop.
ir er ur
- Rosa planted a g_____den in the pots.
ar or er
- She sat on the f_____e escape and watched the plants grow.
ur ir er
- Rosa dashed up the stairs to her ap_____tment.
er ar ir

The missing words in these sentences contain the letters **ee** or **ea**. Fill in the blanks.

- Rosa waited for _____ days before she asked about the pots.
- She fell asleep and _____ about her garden.
- It didn't matter that the pots were _____ and plastic.
- Rosa planted _____ in her pots.

Reading Skills

A **fact** is something that can be proven true. An **opinion** is what someone thinks or feels. Check the sentences that are facts.

- _____ Vegetables can be grown in pots.
- _____ Creating a garden on a fire escape is difficult.
- _____ Any garden is beautiful.
- _____ Plants need soil and water.
- Number the sentences to show the order in which things happened.
_____ Rosa bought potting soil.
_____ Rosa took the pots home.
_____ Rosa planted her seeds.
_____ Rosa saw the pots.
- Check the words or phrases that best describe Rosa.
_____ selfish
_____ tends to waste time
_____ likes the outdoors
_____ appreciates beauty