

Home Letter

Tops and Bottoms
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Dear Family,

This week we'll explore the question "Why is it important to grow food crops?" In the trickster tale **Tops and Bottoms**, students will read about how two clever and hard-working hares win back some lost land by tricking a lazy and greedy bear. Students will also read **Goodness Grows in Gardens**, an informational text that tells about community gardens and how they benefit communities.

This week's...

Target Vocabulary: risky, grunted, profit, crops, plucked, scowled, tugged, hollered

Phonics Skills: Homophones; words ending in *-er, -le*

Vocabulary Strategy: Idioms

Comprehension Skill: Theme—examine characters' qualities and motives to recognize the theme of the text—use story details to determine the theme

Comprehension Strategy: Visualize—as you read, use selection details to picture what is happening

Writing Focus: Informative writing—compare and contrast paragraphs

Activities to Do Together

Vocabulary

See how many of this week's **Target Vocabulary** words you and your child can use in one sentence.

When Do They Grow?

Talk to your child about fruits and vegetables that only grow during certain seasons. Discuss which vegetables are popular during the fall in most regions of the United States, such as acorn squash or pumpkins.

Gardens for All

Talk to your child about victory gardens, which were gardens planted by the public during the two world wars to help offset food shortages. Have your child research wartime victory gardens and write a short paragraph comparing and contrasting them with the community gardens of today.



Go to the *eBook* to read and listen to this week's selection.