



# Read-Aloud Let's Grow!

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In the schoolyard, Ms. Perez announced a special project. “This will be your class garden. Together, you will decide what plants you want to grow in this space!” she said.

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How exciting, Kainoa thought, looking at the rectangular beds. All summer, he had been gardening in Maui, the Hawaiian island where his grandparents lived. It was so much fun gardening with his family to grow kalo. Hopefully gardening with his class would be fun, too.

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Their teacher led them to the shed, where the seeds and tools were kept.

“You’ll have to share your tools and jobs,” Ms. Perez said.

 **Ask:** “What do you notice? What do you wonder?”

5



What would his job be?, Kainoa wondered. At his grandparents', everyone had their own special tasks. Kainoa's job was to pick up the hard, green nuts that fell from the kukui tree. Removing them helped the kalo grow.

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Back in the shed, Kainoa's classmates were grabbing tools left and right. Even his friend James gathered four rakes under his arms and rushed out. Nobody talked about what they needed or what they were going to grow.

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Outside, Dani and Max were digging holes using spades but they kept hitting rocks. There were too many rocks too close together. The more rocks they hit, the more dirt they spread. The more dirt they spread, the more they got onto Lola who was sitting nearby.

"Ugh!" Lola cried. She brushed the dirt off her shirt. But as she brushed, the seeds she was carrying spilled on the ground. "The broccoli and the brussels sprouts are all mixed up now!"

8



Everywhere Kainoa looked, kids were doing things without talking to each other. Holes were dug in strange places; dirt was scattered out of the garden beds; one kid was pulling worms out of the dirt.

We'll never plant anything if we garden like this, Kainoa thought.

**Ask:** "What do you notice? What do you wonder?"

9



He thought back to his tutu's, or grandmother's, farm. The first time Kainoa tried to dig holes, he started without thinking. His cousin Mili said he'd dug them too close together.

Patently, Mili helped Kainoa measure the length between each hole by using his elbow. After that things got easier, and more fun.

10



Suddenly, Kainoa had an idea. All his classmates needed was some guidance.

He walked over to Max and Dani. Using their gloves, Kainoa started to pick up rocks from the soil.

"Let's move these rocks out of the way first. That way it'll be easier to dig," Kainoa suggested.

11



"That makes sense," Lola said. "Let me help."

"Me, too," said Dani.

"We'll use this cart to take the rocks behind the shed," Max suggested.

 **Ask:** "What do you notice? What do you wonder?"

12



Together they all cleared the rocks from the garden beds. Kainoa looked it over. “We should decide what we want to grow,” Kainoa said.

“Maybe we can grow beets,” Max said. “They’ll grow fast with all this sunlight here.”

“We can also grow broccoli if we find more seeds,” added Lola, picking up a rock.

“How about something colorful, like pumpkins?” asked Dani.

Kainoa looked closely at the garden beds. “We might be able to fit everything, but we have to be careful not to crowd it.”

13



His classmates nodded and together they got to work. They gathered around, and decided how to space out the holes to plant the different seeds.

Kainoa smiled as he bent down in the dirt and worked with his classmates. The best part of every garden was helping something new grow.