

The Mysterious Seed

Maya found a strange-looking seed in her grandmother's garden. It was round and purple with tiny silver speckles, unlike any seed she had ever seen before.

"What kind of plant will this grow into, Grandma?" Maya asked, holding it up.

"That's the magic of gardening, dear. You never know what treasures the earth will reveal," her grandmother replied with a twinkle in her eye.

Maya planted the seed in a small pot, watered it daily, and placed it by her bedroom window. For weeks, nothing happened. Just as she was about to give up, a tiny green sprout emerged from the soil.

"Look, Grandma! It's finally growing!" Maya shouted excitedly.

The plant grew quickly. Within days, it had unusual heart-shaped leaves with purple veins. After a month, it reached the ceiling and produced beautiful star-shaped flowers that glowed softly in the dark.

"This is the strangest plant I've ever seen," Maya told her friend Zack, who came over to see it. "The flowers actually glow at night like little nightlights."

Zack was amazed. "Maybe it's from another planet," he joked.

Maya's father wanted to cut the plant because it was getting too big for her room, but Maya begged him not to. "Please, Dad, just a little longer? I want to see what happens next."

Her father sighed but smiled. "Okay, but if it breaks through the roof, it's going to the backyard."

One morning, Maya discovered small fruits growing on the plant. They looked like miniature purple lanterns. Her grandmother gasped when she saw them.

"I haven't seen these in fifty years! These are moonberries," she exclaimed. "They're very rare."

"How do you know about them?" Maya asked curiously.

Grandmother sat on the edge of Maya's bed. "When I was about your age, my own grandmother had a plant just like this one. She told me the seeds came from a traveler who had journeyed to lands far beyond the mountains."

When the moonberries ripened, Maya and her grandmother picked them carefully. They made moonberry pie, and the delicious treat tasted like a mix of blueberries and honey with a hint of cinnamon.

The whole family gathered to taste the special pie. "This is incredible," Maya's mother said. "It's the most delicious pie I've ever tasted."

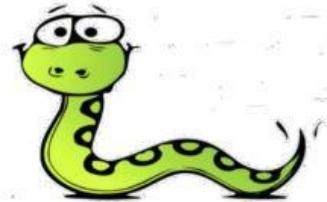
Even Maya's father had to agree. "Worth keeping that giant plant in your room after all," he admitted with a laugh.

Maya saved some seeds from the fruit to plant next year, excited to share her magical discovery with friends. She gave three seeds to Zack and kept the rest in a small decorated box her grandmother had given her.

"What if these grow into something completely different?" Zack asked.

Maya smiled. "That's the adventure of it. Sometimes the most wonderful things come from the most unexpected places."

That night, as Maya looked at her plant silhouetted against the moonlight, with its glowing flowers casting gentle light around her room, she felt grateful for the mysterious seed that had brought so much magic into her life.



Vocabulary Questions



- 1. In the passage, what does the word "emerged" mean?**
 - A) Disappeared
 - B) Came out
 - C) Grew tall
 - D) Changed color
- 2. The moonberries are described as looking like "miniature purple lanterns." What does "miniature" mean?**
 - A) Very large
 - B) Very small
 - C) Very bright
 - D) Very dark
- 3. What does "silhouetted" mean in the last paragraph?**
 - A) Showing only the dark outline against a lighter background
 - B) Fully colored and detailed
 - C) Moving quickly
 - D) Glowing brightly

Inference Questions

4. **Why did Maya's grandmother have a "twinkle in her eye" when she responded to Maya's question?**
- A) She was angry about the seed
 - B) She was confused about the seed
 - C) She knew something special about the seed
 - D) She was tired of gardening
5. **How did Maya likely feel when nothing happened for weeks after planting the seed?**
- A) Excited
 - B) Disappointed
 - C) Angry
 - D) Frightened
6. **Why did Maya's father want to cut the plant at first?**
- A) He didn't like plants
 - B) He thought it was dangerous
 - C) It was taking up too much space
 - D) It wasn't producing any fruit

Predict Questions

7. **What will Maya probably do next spring?**
- A) Throw away all the seeds
 - B) Plant the moonberry seeds she saved
 - C) Buy different seeds from a store
 - D) Stop gardening completely

8. What might happen when Zack plants his seeds?

- A) Nothing will grow
- B) They might grow into different plants than Maya's
- C) They will definitely grow exactly like Maya's plant
- D) They will grow into trees

Explain Questions

9. Why were the moonberries described as "rare"?

- A) Because they were expensive
- B) Because they tasted bad
- C) Because Maya's grandmother hadn't seen them in fifty years
- D) Because they were too small to eat

10. Why did Maya keep some seeds in a decorated box?

- A) To hide them from her family
- B) Because they were valuable
- C) Because the box was special to her
- D) Because she wanted to protect them for next year

Retrieve Questions

11. What color were the speckles on the seed?

- A) Gold
- B) Green
- C) Purple
- D) Silver

12. What shape were the flowers on the plant?

- A) Heart-shaped
- B) Star-shaped
- C) Round
- D) Square

13. Who gave Maya's grandmother the moonberry seeds originally?

- A) Maya's father
- B) A traveler from beyond the mountains
- C) Zack's family
- D) The local gardening store

Summarize Questions

14. Which statement best summarizes what this story is about?

- A) A girl who doesn't like gardening
- B) A grandmother teaching cooking lessons
- C) A strange seed that grows into a rare and magical plant
- D) A family that sells rare plants for money

15. What is the main lesson from this story?

- A) Gardening takes too much time and effort
- B) Unexpected things can bring wonderful surprises
- C) Grandmothers always know everything
- D) Purple is the best color for plants