

Name _____ Date _____

Homegrown

On Saturday, Eric, his sister Tasha, and Mama went shopping. Mama had agreed to take Eric to the garden center, and he could hardly wait to finally get there. Eric thought about all the vegetables he would plant in his garden.	12 27 41
At the garden store, Eric picked out six sturdy, healthy tomato plants, six wire cages for them, and eight pepper plants. He also chose the seeds he wanted, and he paid for everything himself. His neighbor, Mrs. Salter, had given him some poles to support the bean plants, so he didn't have to buy those.	53 67 79 94 96
First thing the next morning, Eric was outside with his gardening tools, seeds, and plants. Then he saw something move in the soil. "A worm!" he exclaimed. Digging around in the soil where he intended to plant his garden, he discovered more worms.	108 122 135 139
"There are worms in my garden," Eric called out to Mrs. Salter. He hoped she would suggest what to do.	152 159
"You're lucky, Eric," she said. "Worms are good for your garden because they help you keep the soil loose. Then it's easy for plant roots to grow downward and for rain to reach all the way down to them."	171 186 198
Eric planted the seeds and plants. Then Mrs. Salter showed him how to put up the beanpoles, and they put the wire cages around the little tomato plants, too. When he was done, he rushed into the house to announce that he had a garden of his own.	211 225 240 246
Eric watered his garden each day. In two weeks, he had tiny seedlings. By the end of July, the first vegetables in Eric's garden were ready to be picked. At dinner that night, Tasha tasted the squash. "It's good!" she said, looking surprised.	259 274 287 289
Eric smiled. "That's because it's homegrown!"	295

