

More Key Words

Use these words to talk about "Hoa's Little Garden" and "Gifts from the Earth."

characteristic

noun



A **characteristic** is how something looks or what something does. A **characteristic** of this plant is white flowers.

conditions

noun



When **conditions** are right, good things happen. Clear skies and wind are good **conditions** for sailing.

depend

verb



To **depend** means to need something or someone for support. A baby **depends** on its mother.

growth

noun



The **growth** of something is how much bigger it gets.

produce

verb



To **produce** means to make something. This factory **produces** cars.

Talk Together

Use a **Key Word** to ask a question. A partner uses a **Key Word** to answer.

What is a characteristic of some plants?

Some plants produce fruit.

Learn to Make Inferences

Look at the picture. The text does not say how Marco and his mom feel. Look at their expressions to figure out, or **make an inference** about, their feelings.



When you read, you have to **make inferences**, too.

How to Make Inferences



1. Look for details in the text.

I read _____.



2. Think about what you already know about the details and the topic.

I know _____.



3. Put your ideas together. What else can you figure out about the details?

And so _____.

Talk Together

Language Frames

-  I read ____ .
-  I know ____ .
-  And so ____ .

Read Marco's "Gardener's Journal." Read the sample inference. Then use **Language Frames** to make inferences. Tell a partner about them.

Journal

Gardener's Journal

- June 15: I love my big plant! I water it every day. It is in a sunny place, so it has all the right **conditions** to grow.
- June 20: My plant bloomed today! The **blossoms** are bright orange. The color is a **characteristic** of this plant. Tomorrow, I go to Grandma's house for a long visit.
- July 10: I just got back from Grandma's house. My plant looks terrible! I expected a lot of **growth**, but its stem is bent over. I watered it, but I'm so worried.
- July 11: This morning I checked my plant again. It looks fine! The stem is strong and straight. The **soil** is damp and cool.
- August 1: Oh, dear! My plant is in trouble again! It looks like someone has put little holes in its leaves. What can I do? My plant **depends** on me!
- August 2: Dad told me to wash each leaf with dish soap. That sounds crazy!
- August 8: The soap worked! My plant looks great.
- September 1: This week my plant **produced** giant pods. I'll plant the **seeds**. Next summer I'll have more big, strong plants!

Sample Inference

"I read that Marco was gone and the plant looks terrible.

I know that some plants need water every day.

And so the plant must need water."

◀ = A good place to make an inference

Review Two- and Three-Letter Blends



crab



globe



stream



desk

Listen and Learn

 Listen to the sounds in the blends. Choose the words with the same sounds.

1.



crack flip glad

2.



cross brick class

3.



wasp ask best

4.



strap split screech

Talk Together



Listen and read. Find the words with beginning and ending blends.

Over to You

What a Plant Needs

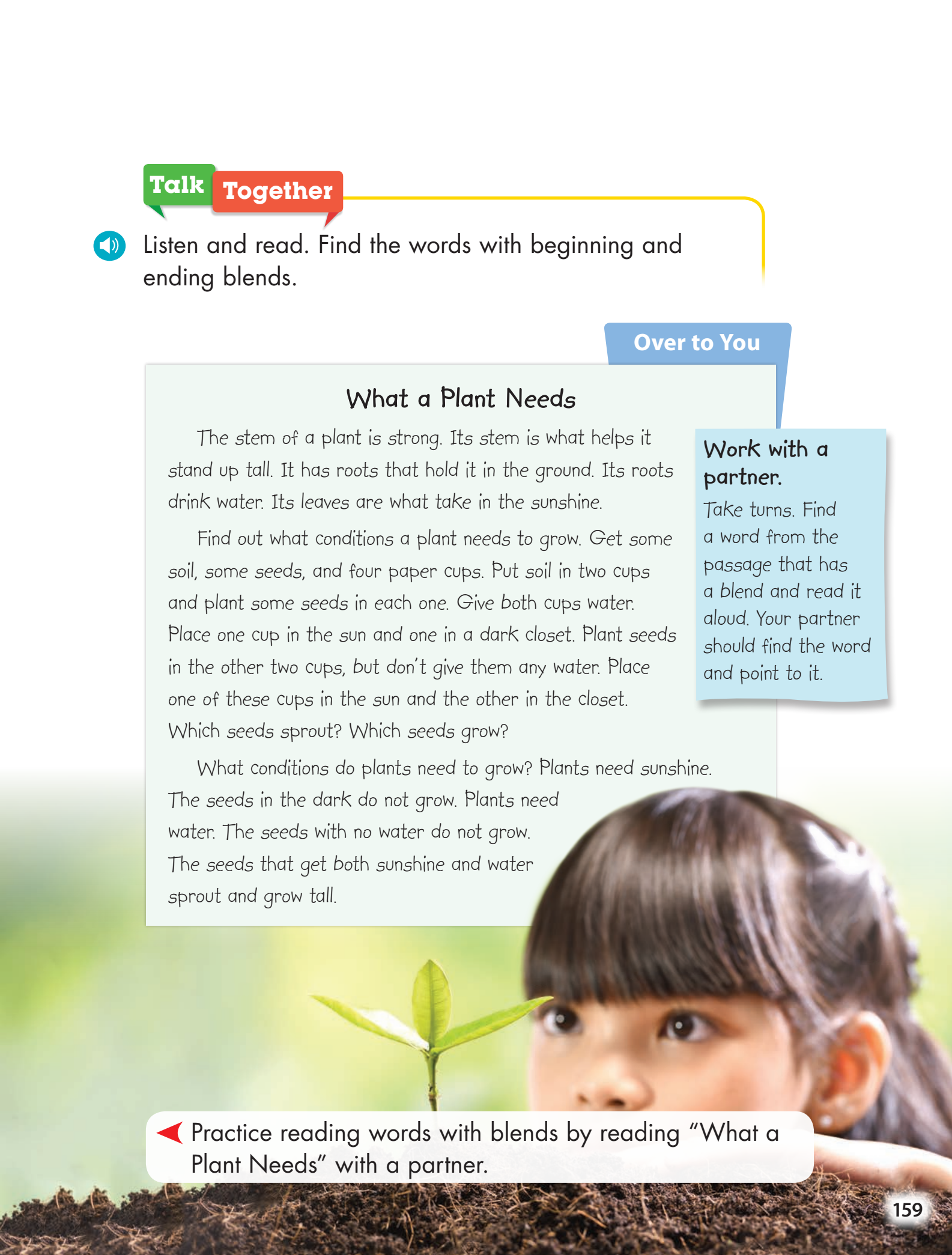
The stem of a plant is strong. Its stem is what helps it stand up tall. It has roots that hold it in the ground. Its roots drink water. Its leaves are what take in the sunshine.

Find out what conditions a plant needs to grow. Get some soil, some seeds, and four paper cups. Put soil in two cups and plant some seeds in each one. Give both cups water. Place one cup in the sun and one in a dark closet. Plant seeds in the other two cups, but don't give them any water. Place one of these cups in the sun and the other in the closet. Which seeds sprout? Which seeds grow?

What conditions do plants need to grow? Plants need sunshine. The seeds in the dark do not grow. Plants need water. The seeds with no water do not grow. The seeds that get both sunshine and water sprout and grow tall.

Work with a partner.

Take turns. Find a word from the passage that has a blend and read it aloud. Your partner should find the word and point to it.



Practice reading words with blends by reading "What a Plant Needs" with a partner.

Read a Story

Genre

Realistic fiction is a story that sounds as if it could be true. The characters, plot, and setting all seem real.

Characters

Characters are the people in the story.



Hoa

Mom



Hoa's Little Garden

by Susan Henderson



► Set a Purpose

A girl who loves flowers wants to grow her own garden. Find out what happens.

Hoa loved to walk in the park with her family. She loved the **chirping** birds, the tall trees, and the bright green plants. Most of all, she loved the flowers and their sweet-smelling **blossoms**.

“I wish we could have a garden,” Hoa said to her mom.

Hoa’s mom smiled. “In our little apartment? Not very likely.”



chirping singing

At home, Hoa drew pictures of flowers and plants. She **hung** them all around the apartment. She knew that colorful pictures made the apartment feel **lighter and brighter**.

Hoa's mom picked up one of her drawings. "You're a very talented artist, Hoa," she said.

Hoa **replied**, "If we had real plants and flowers, I wouldn't have to draw them."

"Your name means *flower*," her mom told her. "Maybe that's why you love flowers so much."



hung put on the wall

lighter and brighter happier and less dark

replied answered

► Before You Continue

1. **Setting** Where does Hoa live? How do you know?
2. **Make Inferences** What does Hoa like about flowers?

► Predict

How will Hoa get plants to grow in her apartment?

At school, Hoa's class planted bean **seeds**. The plants grew well in the classroom, so Hoa took her bean plant home and set it on a table. But in a few days, her little plant died.

"It doesn't have the right **conditions** to grow," said her mom. "It needs more light."





Hoa wanted a flower garden **badly**, but she knew there was no space for one in her family's apartment.

One day, when Hoa was working on one of her drawings, she looked outside. She saw something she **hadn't noticed** before. The **sun's rays were shining** into a corner of the balcony.

badly very much

hadn't noticed didn't see

sun's rays were shining sunshine was coming through

“Mom!” called Hoa. “Come look. The sun is shining on our **balcony**. I can have a garden!”

Her mom laughed. “Well, maybe you can have a *small* garden,” she said, “a *very* small garden. You can grow one plant in a pot. But that’s it. There is no space for more than one pot.”



balcony terrace

Hoa thought about what she should plant. *I love flowers, she told herself, but it would be nice to grow something to eat, too.*

Hoa thought about the different types of plants she had learned about at school. *I know! A **passion fruit** plant will give us flowers to enjoy and fruit to eat.*



passion fruit a tropical fruit with lots of seeds

► Before You Continue

1. **Confirm Prediction** Was your prediction correct? What else will Hoa need to do to keep her plants growing?
2. **Character** Do Hoa and her mom get along well? How do you know?

► Predict

Look at the picture. What will happen to the passion fruit **seeds**?

Hoa's mom got her a pot, a **spade**, and some **soil**. She helped Hoa cut open a passion fruit. Hoa took **a dozen** seeds from inside the fruit and planted them in the dirt.

"Do you think any of these **seeds** will sprout?" she asked her mom.

"I hope so, Hoa," her mom said.



spade small shovel
a dozen twelve

Hoa checked her plant every morning and every night. One night, after weeks of checking, she finally spotted a little **sprout** growing in her pot.

A few weeks later, the sprout had grown into a small **vine**. The vine kept growing and growing until it spilled out of the pot.

“You need a stick for the vine to grow onto,” said her mom.



vine creeping plant

Three months later, there was a big purple flower on the vine.

“Mom,” Hoa called, “come look! My vine has **produced** a beautiful flower!”

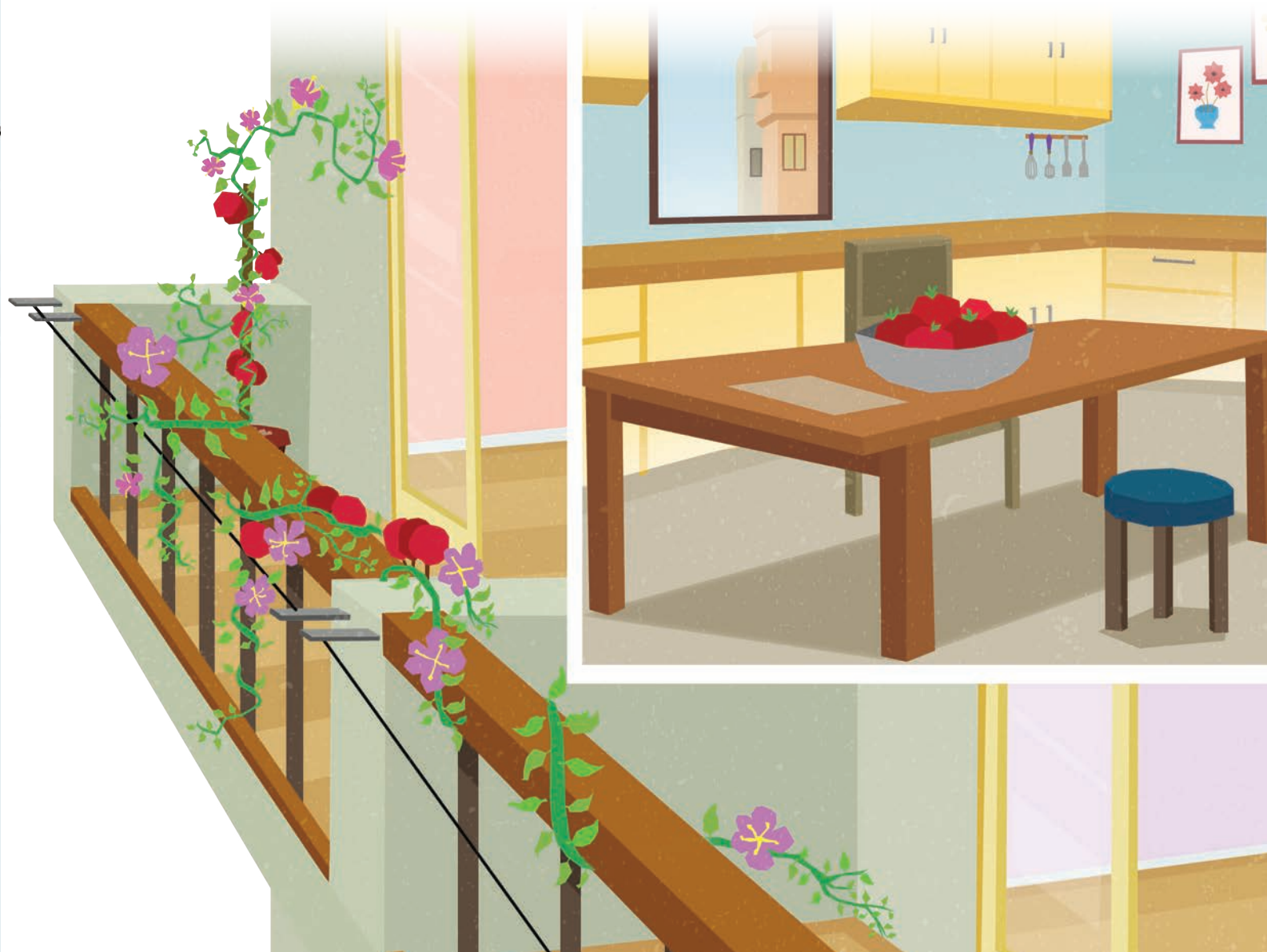
Her mom was very happy for her. “What a wonderful job you did, Hoa.” Hoa was **beaming**. She knew the beautiful flower would blossom into a fruit.



beaming smiling brightly

It wasn't long before Hoa's family was enjoying a bowl full of passion fruit. The family's next-door neighbor, Mrs. Nguyen, also had a bowl of passion fruit. Hoa's passion fruit vine had grown so much that it grew onto Mrs. Nguyen's balcony!

Hoa was very happy. Some of the passion fruit were sweet and juicy, and others were **tangy and tart**. But they were all very tasty.



tangy and tart sourish

I'm a great gardener, thought Hoa. She asked her mom for another pot.

"Another pot?" asked her mom. "What do you want to grow now?"

"Chilies," Hoa answered. "Bright red ones!"

Her mom thought for a moment. "Hmmm," she said, "maybe we should ask Mrs. Nguyen if there's enough room on her balcony." ❖



► Before You Continue

1. **Confirm Prediction** What did you think would happen to the passion fruit **seeds**? Were you surprised?
2. **Point of View** What does Hoa's mom think about Hoa's gardening? How do you know?

Meet the Author

Susan Henderson

Susan Henderson likes to grow flowers and basil on her Seattle balcony. She grows blue and red petunias and bright orange marigolds. Her cat, Frankie, likes the pots of grass she grows for him to munch on.

Before she moved to Seattle, the author lived in Australia. She taught many Vietnamese children, who are now grown up and have children of their own. She is still in touch with some of them through e-mail.

The author loves to read. She also enjoys writing stories that she hopes children will love to read, too.



Writing Tip



Find places in the story where Susan Henderson helps you see and feel what is happening. Then write your own sentences. Describe the way your favorite plant looks and feels.

Think and Respond

Talk About It



1. What seems **realistic** about the story?
Give two examples.

The story is realistic because _____.

2. Imagine you are Hoa's mom. **Give information** to Hoa about the life **cycle** of a passion fruit plant.

First, the plant has _____. Next, _____. Then, _____.

3. Think about the passion fruit that Hoa grew.
What were some of its **characteristics**?

All the passion fruit _____.

Some passion fruit _____. Others _____.

Key Words

blossom

characteristic

conditions

cycle

depend

growth

produce

root

seed

soil

sprout

Write About It



Hoa worked with her mom to grow passion fruit. What do you think Hoa learned about the **growth** of a passion fruit plant? Write two sentences. Use **Key Words** to explain your thinking.

I think Hoa learned that _____.

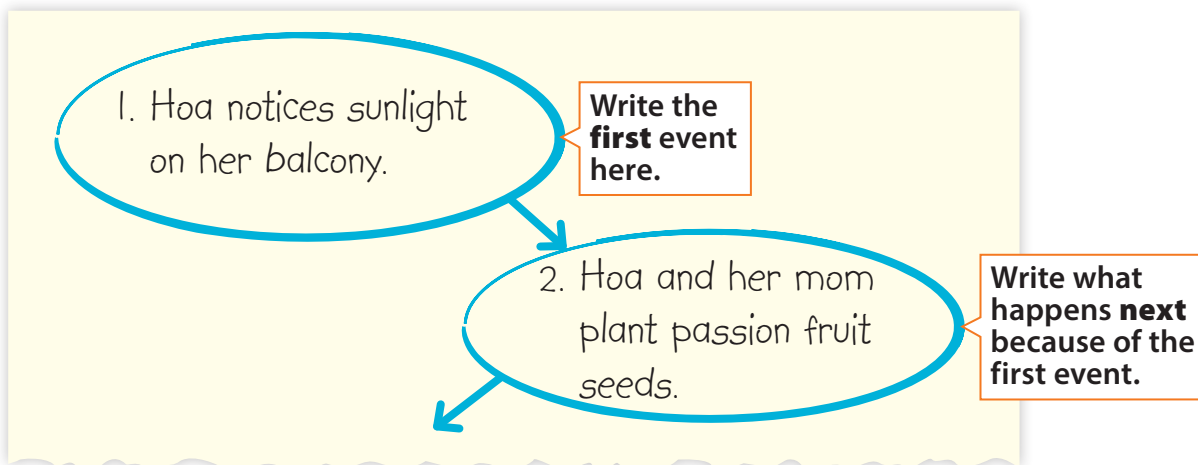


Reread and Retell

Sequence

Make a sequence chain to show what happens in “Hoa’s Little Garden.” Notice that some of the events in the sequence influence future events.

Sequence Chain



Now use your sequence chain as you retell the story to a partner. Use time-order words and **Key Words**. Record your retelling.

First, _____.
Next, _____.
Then, _____.

Fluency

Practice reading with expression. Rate your reading.

Talk Together

What is amazing about how a passion fruit plant grows? Draw a picture. Use **Key Words** as labels. Share your picture with the class.