

🔊 More Key Words

Use these words to talk about "It's All in the Balance" and "Animals, More or Less."

balance

noun



When things are in **balance**, they are even. The two sides of the scale are in **balance**.

control

verb



To **control** means to make a person or thing do what you want. The boys **control** where the car goes.

interact

verb



To **interact** means to act together. The students **interact** with each other to do a science project.

react

verb



When things happen, you usually **react** to them. The child **reacts** to the snowball.

scarce

adjective



When something is **scarce**, it is hard to find or get. Food is **scarce** in this store.

Talk Together

With a partner, take turns telling a story. Use the **Key Words**.

Jim did not control his bike on the hill.

He lost his balance!

Learn to Ask Questions

Look at the picture. Do you understand what Linda and her cat are doing? **Ask** yourself **questions** about what you see. Look more closely at the picture to find the answers.



As you read, **ask questions**. The answers to some questions can be found in the text. Read to find the answers. This will help you understand the text better.

How to Ask Questions



1. Ask a question.

I wonder: _____?



2. Look for the answer. You might find the answer in the text. Or you might have to think and search.

I read _____.

So _____.



3. Think about the answer. Read on and ask more questions.

Now I wonder:

_____?

Talk Together

Read Linda's fable with a partner. Read the sample questions. Then use **Language Frames** to ask and answer questions to check your understanding.

Language Frames

- ? I wonder: _____?
- 👁 I read _____.
So _____.
- 💭 Now I wonder: _____?

Fable

The Gopher and the Squirrel

One day Squirrel met Gopher in a garden. She wasn't sure how to **interact** with a gopher. So she spoke politely. "Good day," she said. "May I collect the acorns in this garden?"

"No! Go away!" said Gopher.

This was a rude way to **react** to a polite request. But Squirrel tried again. "You see, the trees didn't get enough rain this year. Nature is out of **balance**. Acorns are **scarce**."

"I can't **control** the weather," said Gopher. "But I control this garden, and all the acorns are mine."

"But you have roots to eat," Squirrel protested.

"So what? The acorns are mine, too!" Gopher replied.

Then Squirrel asked, "Is that little wire shed near the fence yours, too?"

"What little wire shed?" asked Gopher. He came out of his hole to take a look. The shed was just the right size for a gopher. A few carrots were on the floor. Gopher ran inside to get the carrots. Slam! Down fell the cage door. He was trapped.

Squirrel laughed. "Looks like I'm in control now!"

Moral: If you are selfish, you might lose everything.

Sample Questions

"I wonder: Why is Gopher so rude?"

I read that Gopher doesn't want to share the acorns. So I know that he is greedy.

Now I wonder: Will Gopher give Squirrel some acorns?"

◀ = A good place to ask a question



Vowel Sounds and Spellings: u_e



flute



tube

Listen and Learn

 Listen to the vowel sound in the picture words. Choose the words that have the same vowel sound.

1.



bone rude just

2.



flack face tune

3.



more rule rake

4.



truce sprang tale

Talk Together



Listen and read. Find the words with the vowel sound in *flute* spelled *u_e*.

Over to You

When Nature Loses Its Balance

A healthy habitat must be in balance. What does this mean? Here is an example. As a rule, rabbits eat plants. The rabbits keep the plants under control. Foxes eat rabbits. Foxes make sure there are not too many rabbits. The environment is balanced.

A swamp in Florida is an example of a habitat that is not in balance. What is the problem? There are too many large snakes. The snakes are not native to the swamp. Who is responsible? Rude pet owners let their pet snakes loose in the swamp. Their numbers have increased. There are now too many large snakes. They are eating too much of the native wildlife. The snakes eat rabbits, foxes, and other small animals. The result is less food for alligators and big, wild cats. Now all of the wildlife in the swamp is becoming scarce. Trained hunters are trying to get rid of the snakes. But it may be too hard. The snakes may elude, or get away from, the hunters.

Work with a partner.

Take turns. Choose a word with the vowel sound you hear in *flute* from the passage. Make up your own sentences using the word.

Practice reading words with the vowel sound in *flute* by reading "When Nature Loses Its Balance" with a partner.

Read a Humorous Story

Genre

A **humorous story** has funny characters and events.

Setting

The setting is where and when a story happens.

This story happens in a small village in China.





It's All in the Balance

by **Susan Henderson**



► Set a Purpose

A visitor sees a village garden.
Find out what he doesn't like
about it.

Once there was a **village** that had a very beautiful garden. Birds sang, bees buzzed in the trees, and colorful butterflies flew among the many **bright** flowers.

The people in the village were very **proud** of their garden. They thought it was the most beautiful garden in all the world.



village small town
bright colorful
proud pleased with

One day, a **visitor** came to the village.

“This is a wonderful garden,” he said, “except for all the holes in the leaves of the plants.”

“Oh dear,” said the villagers. “What can we do to fix the leaves?”

“Listen to me,” said the visitor. “For I am the greatest gardener in all the land.”



visitor guest

“Caterpillars eat leaves, and caterpillars come from eggs laid by butterflies,” said the visitor.

“It’s simple. If you **dig out** the butterfly bushes, the butterflies will go away—just like that.” And the man **snapped** his fingers.

The villagers nodded their heads. *This visitor must be very wise, they thought.*



dig out remove

snapped made a clicking sound



The villagers picked up their **shovels** and **wheelbarrows** and went to work digging up the garden.

Meanwhile, the butterflies and the birds watched from above. “Oh no!” they cried. “What are the villagers doing to our beautiful garden?”

The visitor looked on, quite satisfied with the villagers’ work.



shovels tools for digging

wheelbarrows small carts

Meanwhile While this was happening

► Before You Continue

1. **Cause/Effect** What does the visitor want to remove from the garden? Why?
2. **Ask Questions** Think about the visitor. Ask yourself a question about the character. Look for the answer as you read.

► Predict

What do you think will happen if the villagers get rid of the butterfly bushes?

A boy who lived outside the village passed by and saw what was happening. He told the villagers that the butterflies said the visitor's **advice** was silly. He **pleaded with** the villagers not to **get rid of** the butterfly bushes.



“The butterflies help keep this garden **in balance**,” said the boy.

“Butterflies?” **sneered** the visitor. “What do butterflies know?”

advice recommendation

pleaded with begged

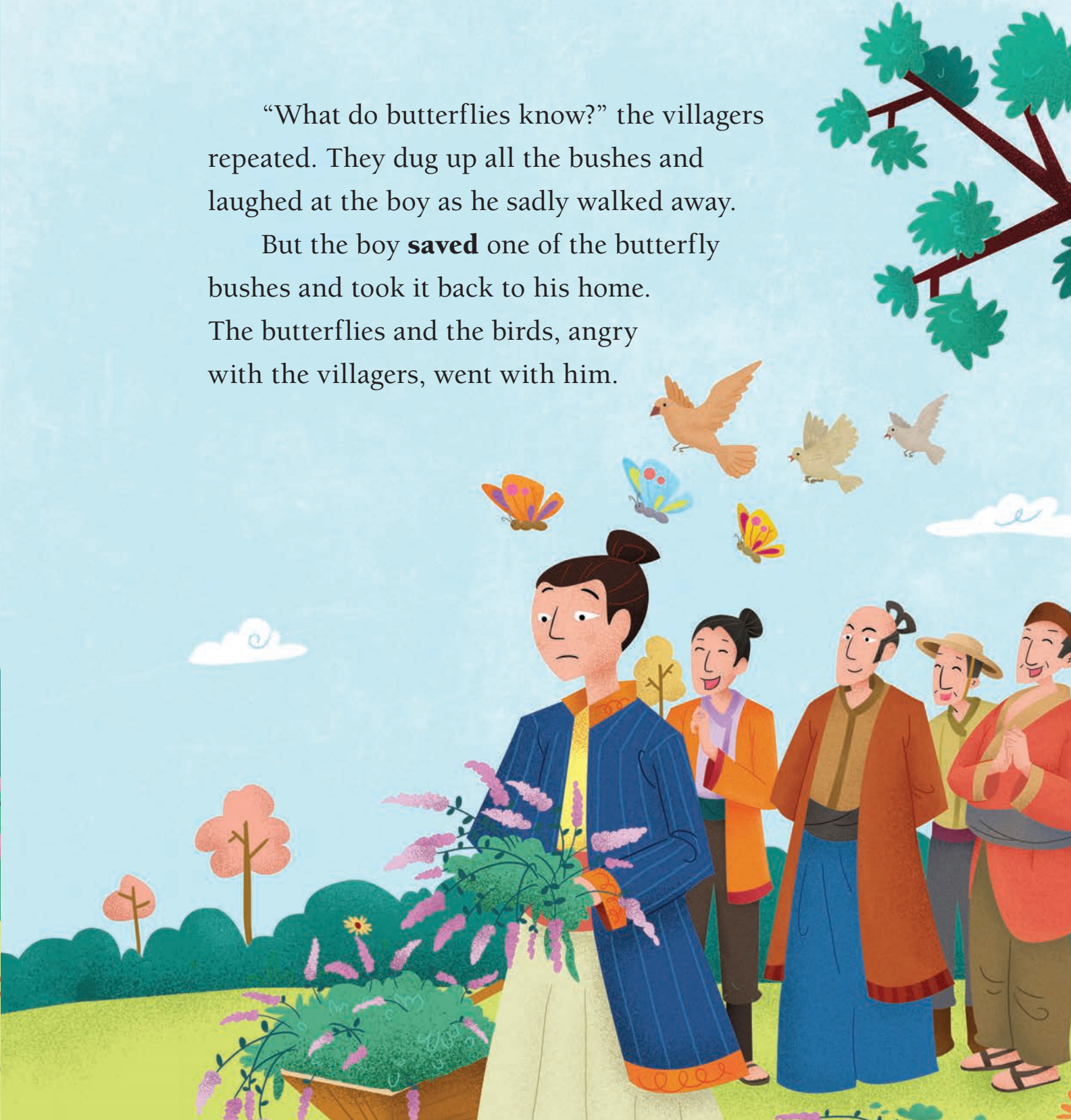
get rid of remove

in balance in harmony

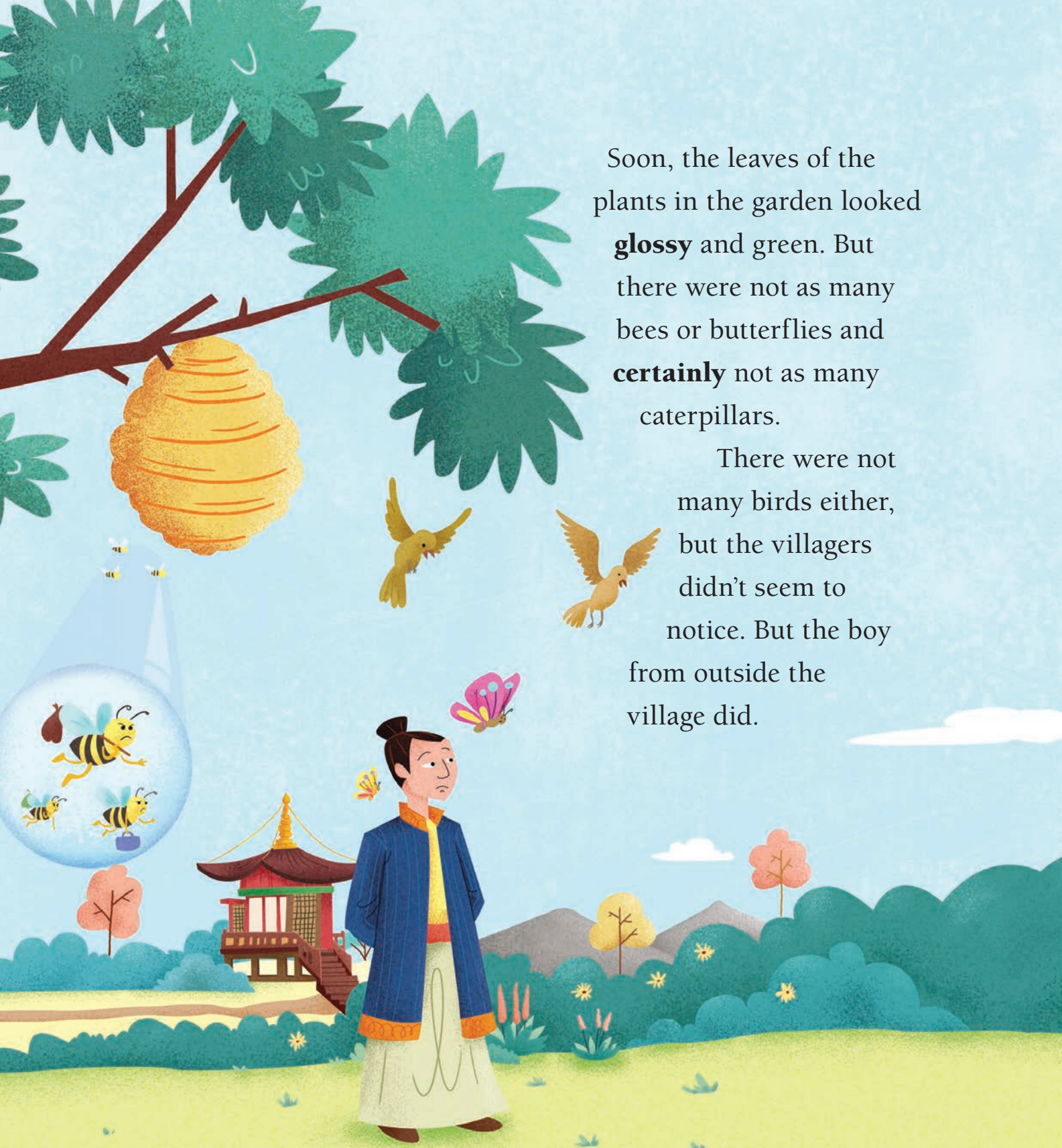
sneered mocked with a smile

“What do butterflies know?” the villagers repeated. They dug up all the bushes and laughed at the boy as he sadly walked away.

But the boy **saved** one of the butterfly bushes and took it back to his home. The butterflies and the birds, angry with the villagers, went with him.



saved rescued



Soon, the leaves of the plants in the garden looked **glossy** and green. But there were not as many bees or butterflies and **certainly** not as many caterpillars.

There were not many birds either, but the villagers didn't seem to notice. But the boy from outside the village did.

glossy shiny
certainly definitely

When the visitor returned, he said, “The leaves look much better, but your garden is too colorful. Get rid of some of those flowers.”

“TOO colorful?” replied the boy from outside the village. “The bird asks, ‘How can a garden be too colorful?’”

“What does a bird know?” asked the villagers, and they dug out most of the flowers.



► Before You Continue

1. **Confirm Prediction** What has happened to the garden so far? Was your prediction correct?
2. **Details** What does the visitor want the villagers to do next? Why?

► **Predict**

How will the villagers feel when the creatures start to disappear?

Time passed. One day, one of the villagers noticed that the **beehive** in the garden was empty. All the bees were gone.

“Who took the bees?” he **demanded**.

“Where have all the birds gone?” asked a woman.

“Where are the butterflies?” asked another. But there was no answer.



beehive home for bees
demanded asked forcefully

All at once, the garden seemed like a very sad place. There were no butterflies or birds. The bees had all gone, too. The garden had lost all its **residents**—and all its color.

“What have we done?” the villagers cried. “What has happened to our beautiful garden?”



All at once Suddenly
residents creatures who lived in
the garden

► Before You Continue

1. **Confirm Prediction** What was your prediction? Was it correct? Explain.
2. **Setting** Describe how the garden was different after the creatures disappeared.

► Predict

Look at the picture of the boy's garden. How will the villagers get their garden back to the way it was?

One day, one of the villagers **happened upon** the boy's house. There were colorful flowers **everywhere**. He saw bees and butterflies. He heard many birds **singing** from the trees.

"Your garden is beautiful," said the man. "Why isn't our garden like this?" he asked.

"Listen to the bees," said the boy.



happened upon accidentally
found

everywhere all over

singing chirping and tweeting



“Bees?” said the man. “What do bees—?” Then suddenly, he stopped. And he listened.

“The bees say, we tried to **control** nature,” said the man. “But we’ve **upset** the **balance**. Digging up the butterfly bushes made the butterflies go away. Without the butterflies, there were no caterpillars. With no caterpillars, the birds had nothing to eat, so they left, too.”



control supervise or manage
upset disturbed

The boy said, “Yes. Everything in nature **interacts** with one another. Plant flowers and butterfly bushes, and the bees and butterflies will come back. Then birds will come back, too.”

So the villagers **planted** new butterfly bushes and added more flowers.

Soon, their garden was the most beautiful garden in the world once again.



interacts connects

planted put in the ground

When the visitor returned to the village, he found the villagers **disguised** as birds, bees, and butterflies running toward him to **prevent** his entry. The visitor ran away as fast as he could, and the villagers laughed as he ran.

Once he was gone, the boy who lived outside the village turned to them and smiled. He said, “Ah, what does a visitor know?” ❖



disguised wearing costumes
prevent stop

► Before You Continue

1. **Confirm Prediction** How did the villagers get their garden back to the way it was? Was your prediction correct?
2. **Compare/Contrast** What do the villagers think about the visitor's advice at the beginning and end of the story? What do they learn?

Talk About It



1. What is the funniest part of this **humorous story**? Tell your opinion.

To me, the funniest part ____.

2. What do you think the visitor might say if he saw the garden at the end of the story? Pretend to be the visitor and give your opinion about the garden.

"I think this garden ____."

3. What do the villagers learn from the boy? What do they do as a result?

The villagers learned that ____.

As a result, they ____.

Key Words

amount

balance

behavior

control

decrease

increase

interact

react

scarce

supply

Write About It



Imagine that your own community gets out of **balance**. What could make it get out of balance? How would people **react**? Write two sentences. Use at least one **Key Word**.

When a lot of ____, things get ____.

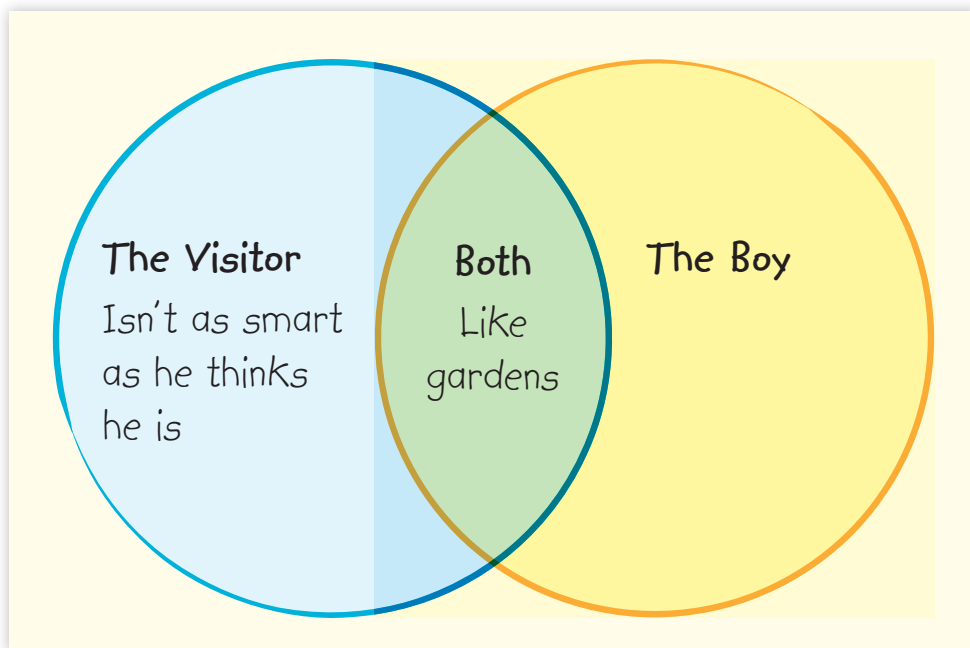
People ____.



Compare and Contrast

Make a Venn diagram for "It's All in the Balance." Use the pictures and the text to compare and contrast the visitor with the boy.

Venn Diagram



Use your diagram to tell a partner how the visitor and the boy are alike and how they are different. Use the sentence frames and **Key Words**. Record your comparison.

They are alike
because _____.
The visitor _____,
but the boy _____.

Fluency

Practice reading with expression. Rate your reading.

Talk Together

What happens to the garden when nature loses its **balance**? Describe the garden before and after. Use **Key Words**.