

The Grateful Garden Doing Great Things

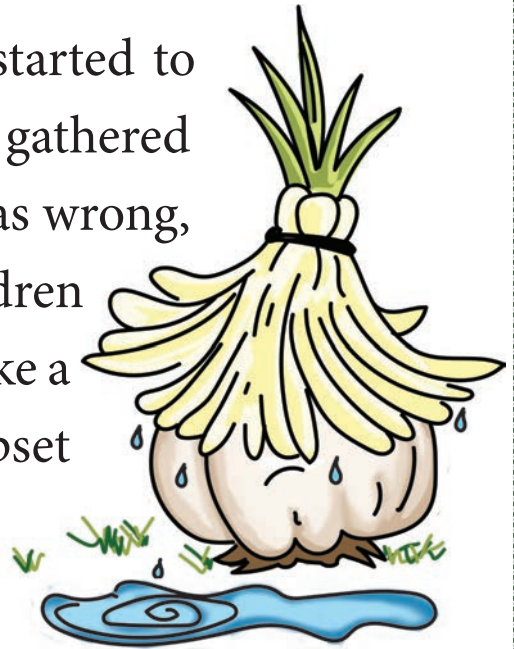


Hi, my name is Onionhead and I want to tell you something wonderful. I live in a garden with other vegetables that, though, we are not blood family, we feel like a family, and a really good one at that. The five of us stick together all the time. Their names are Garlic Bud, Broccoli Stem, Turnip Stick and Cauliflower Bunch.

It was such a beautiful day, and everyone was lazing around in the garden. We all started to talk about how lucky we were, by just being fed, watered, and extremely well taken care of. We call our home The Grateful Garden because we all have great gratitude in our hearts.

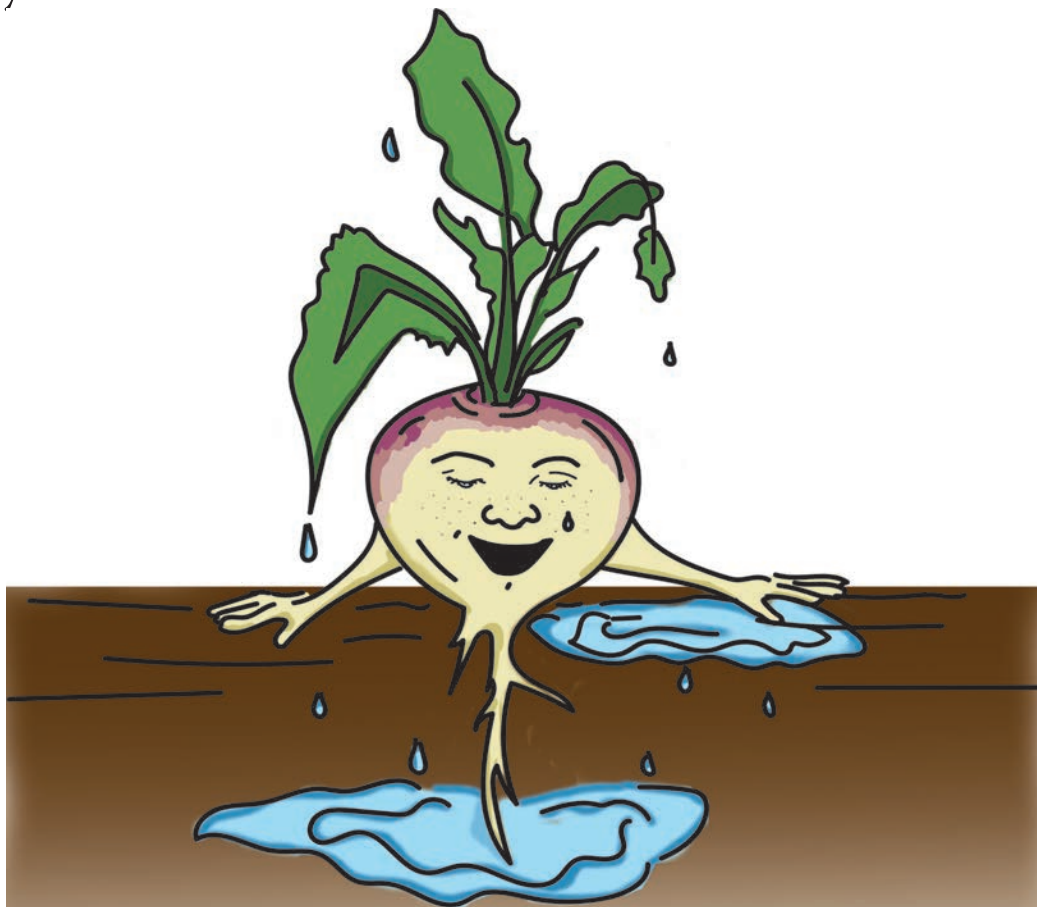


When all of a sudden, Garlic Bud started to cry, and I mean really cry. We all gathered around her and when asked what was wrong, she said, “I feel all the pain of the children in the world – it just came over me like a mop on my head.” We were all so upset that we all started to cry, and the mop came over all our heads as well.



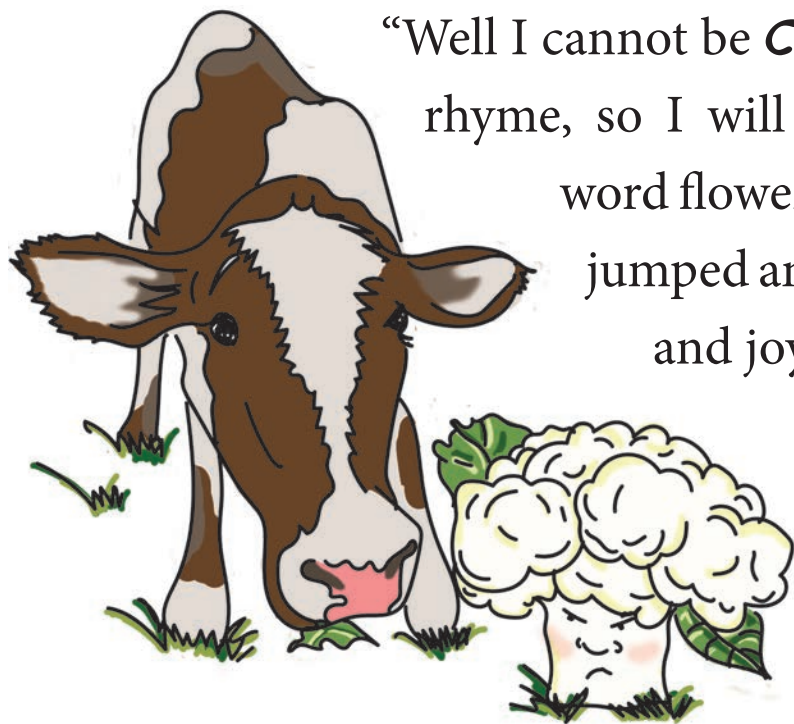
Then I got an idea. “I know what we should do. Let’s be like the C.I.A. – but instead of Central Intelligence Agency, we will be Compassion In Action. Then let’s go out and help the children of the world.” Turnip Stick answered by saying that we should make a list of all the problems the children were facing, then we should each take on one problem. Broccoli Stem and the others started twisting and turning

in joy and we used our tears to water our roots.



I said, “I want my code name to be **KNOW** because my name backwards spells no-I-no.” Garlic Bud chimed in and said, “My name will rhyme with yours, therefore, I want to be **GLOW.**”

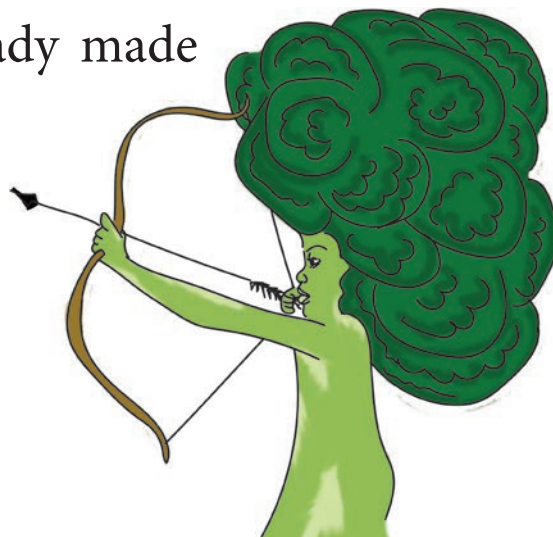
Then Turnip Stick said, “Ok then I will be **TOW** and Broccoli Stem will be **BOW**.” Cauliflower Bunch answered, “Well I cannot be **COW** because it does not rhyme, so I will be **FLOW** because the word flower is in my name.” We all jumped and screamed in laughter and joy.



FLOW went and got paper and a pencil to write down some of the hardest problems we heard kids were having. I said, “I am **KNOW** therefore, let’s handle the problems where kids have **NO**.”

BOW jumped up and had already made the list. There were kids with:

- No home
- No water
- No food
- No parents or family
- No safety

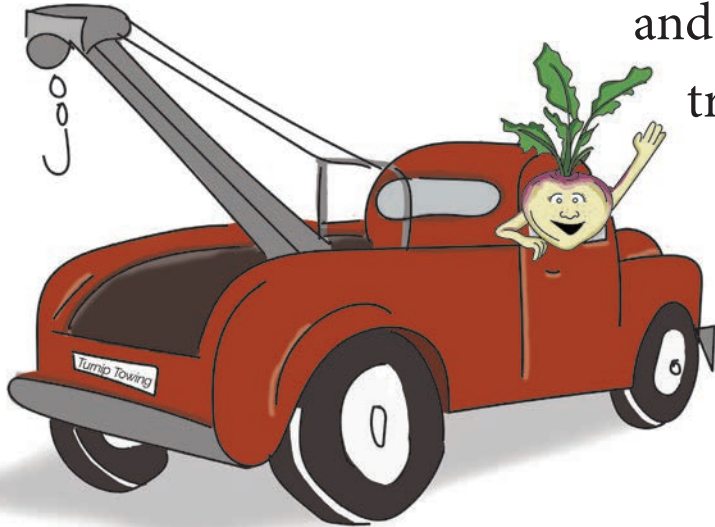


GLOW declared that she wanted to take on kids with no home. 'Street kids' she thought they were referred to.

FLOW declared that she wanted to take on kids with no water. She thought this was perfect because her name was **FLOW**, like water flows.

BOW was clear that he wanted to take on kids with no food, and he knew exactly where to go and what to do. He would be like a bow and arrow and spread the word.

TOW was deep in thought and made the announcement that he would take on kids who had no safety. He smiled and said, “I will get two tow trucks and tow them to safety.”



I knew then that I, as **KNOW**, would take on kids with no parents or family. This was perfect because maybe I could find some of the families and they could get to know each other.

Oh my gosh, did we ever have a lot to do to get ready for these huge missions. We had to make certain who will take care of what, so we put our names on the list.

Chapter One

Onionhead



KNOW
NO PARENTS OR FAMILY

Onionhead was the first to go out on the mission. He knew that kids with no parents are called orphans, and this was his first clue. He made a list of all the orphanages he could find.

He contacted every one of them, whether by phone, letter, or email. He even borrowed a cell phone and computer from his human friend Fred, who watered him daily. He needed them in order to be able to email and text. Of course, he



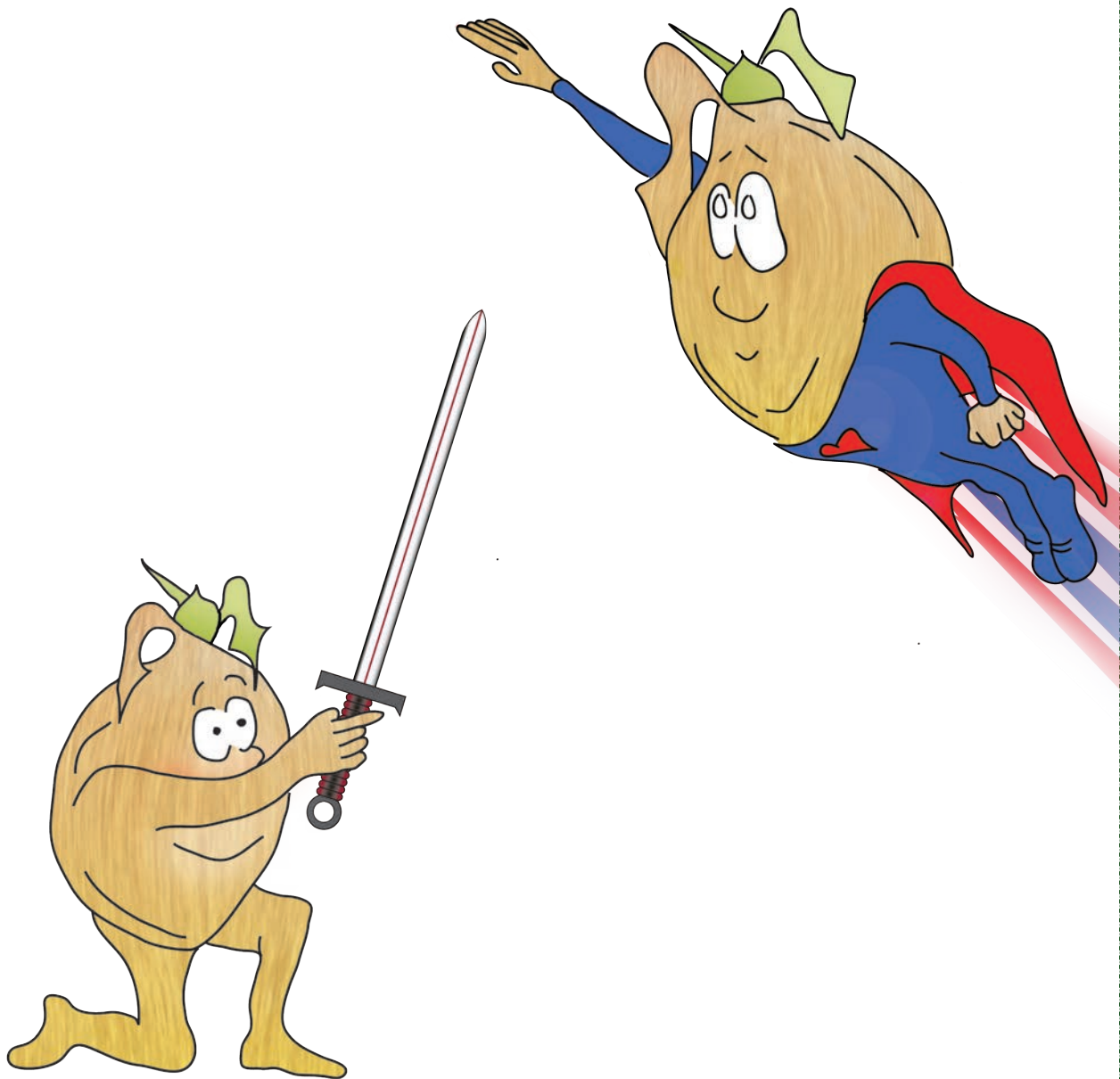
also needed Fred to help him spell and figure out how a cell phone works or even email, as he had never used a computer. Yikes, this was a little harder than he thought it

would be. But he persevered. His Mother told him to never give up trying...boy was she ever right!

He wrote to all the agencies, telling them all about these organization that could possibly find kid's family and even parents. He knew that many of the children had been adopted, but they should know about this as well. Know had heard that many people had found their families from these agencies, and this excited him immensely.

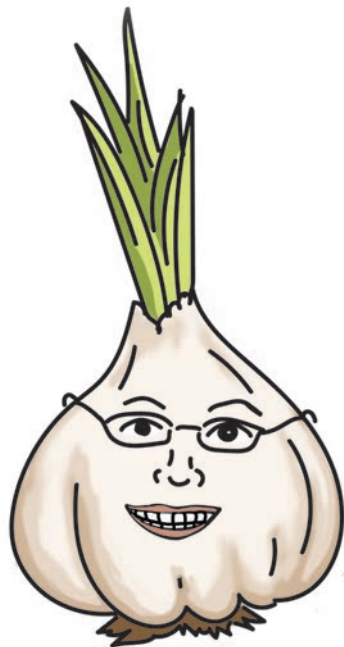
Most of the agencies wrote him back and said that they would gladly share this information with the adoptive parents. As well, when the children would come of age, at 18, they could also receive this important information.

It took six months to cover all the places that took in orphans. However, when Onionhead...oops...I mean **KNOW** had completed his task, he felt like Super-onion, or a Jedi-onion.



Chapter Two

Garlic Bud



GLOW
NO HOME

Oh gosh, this was much harder than **GLOW** thought it would be. They are called street kids, and streets are all over the place. How would she find them, but even more so, how could she help them?

She decided to start with the biggest city in every continent. She studied that there are seven continents, so there would be seven big cities. She made her list and figured that this would be a great place to start. She chose two cities in North America because Antarctica did not have any cities or homeless children.



Continent North America

biggest city: Mexico City, Mexico 8,855,000 people

biggest city: New York City, New York 8,399,000 people



Continent South America

biggest city: Sao Paulo, Brazil 12,325,232 people



Continent Africa

biggest city: Lagos, Nigeria 14,368,000 people



Continent Asia

biggest city: Tokyo, Japan 13,960,000 people



Continent Europe

biggest city: Istanbul, Turkey 5,462,452 people



Continent Australia

biggest city: New South Wales, Western
Australia 8,157,735 people

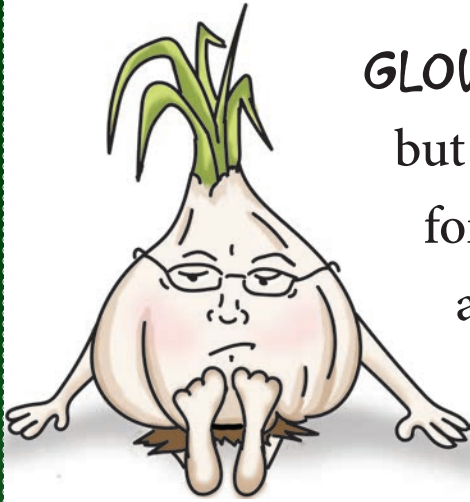


Continent Antarctica

Had no cities, only research stations and no
homeless children. Yeah for them!

GLOW asked **KNOW** if Fred would help her as well, with the computer, cell phone and spelling. Fred said he would be thrilled to assist in such a great cause.

GLOW wrote to the Mayor of each of the seven cities with her suggestions. She said that she felt terrible that kids were living in the streets, and asked if they could please put together a budget to have some homes for them. These homes should supply food, water, bathrooms, and beds. Then the Mayor should get a team together to make sure that they all received an education. Maybe even they could find their parents, or foster parents. She even found out that there are grown-ups who take in children in order to home them, until they can find their parents or a better place to live.



GLOW did not get the response she hoped for, but knew she had planted a seed of hope for these children. “If I could gather them all up and make a Garden for them, I would be really happy”, she said. But like my father told me, “Do the best you can and leave the rest to heaven.”

GLOW said she certainly felt she had done her best. She also grew a lot because she never knew there were cities that had so many people living in them. She did not even know that Antarctica did not have any cities at all. Wow what an educational experience!

Chapter Three

Broccoli Stem

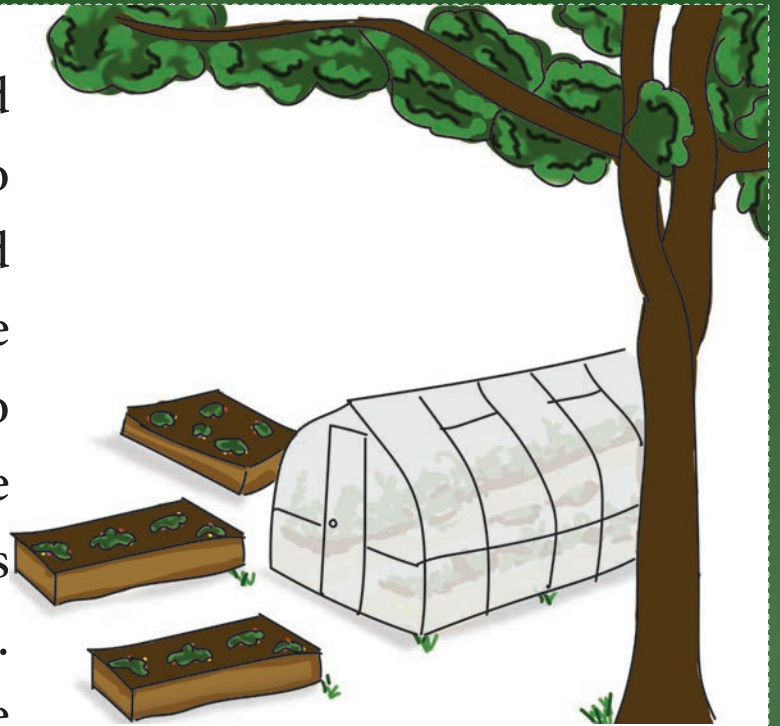


BOW
NO FOOD

Oh, **BOW** was just so full of himself. He knew exactly what he was going to do, and it seemed like it would be very easy. However, when he went to use the cell phone or the computer, he was completely overwhelmed. He also realized that he too, did not know how to spell. Of course, he asked Fred for help. Fred was completely overjoyed to be of assistance because he just loved what the Gratitude Garden veggie-folks were doing.

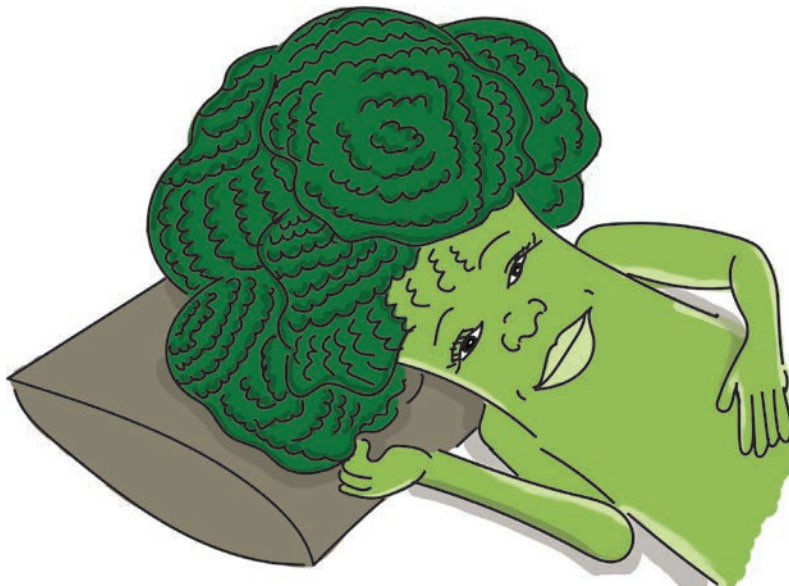
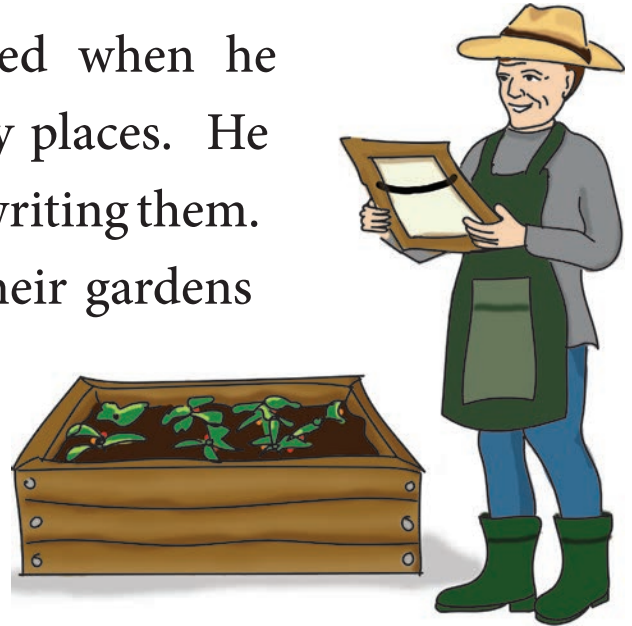
BOW made a list of places that had food shelters or non-profits. Non-profits, he found out, were organizations that dedicated their lives to helping other people, the environment, or animals. They take in donations from companies and people, and spend the money being of service to others, rather than to themselves.

BOW wrote to them and said that he wanted to know if they needed more food. Though he did not have money to send, he knew where they could get veggies that were not being used. He also said that maybe restaurants or stores could help out a little more with food that they did not use.



Then **BOW** wrote to places that had warmer weather. He told them how to make gardens and greenhouses in order to grow vegetables. Seeds are very inexpensive and grow very easily. They can provide a full meal for a hungry person.

BOW was completely fulfilled when he heard back from many, many places. He even made pen pals and kept writing them. They even sent pictures of their gardens to Fred, which he shared with BOW....and with such a happy grin on his face.



BOW went to bed with a grin from stem to stem.

Chapter Four

Cauliflower Bunch

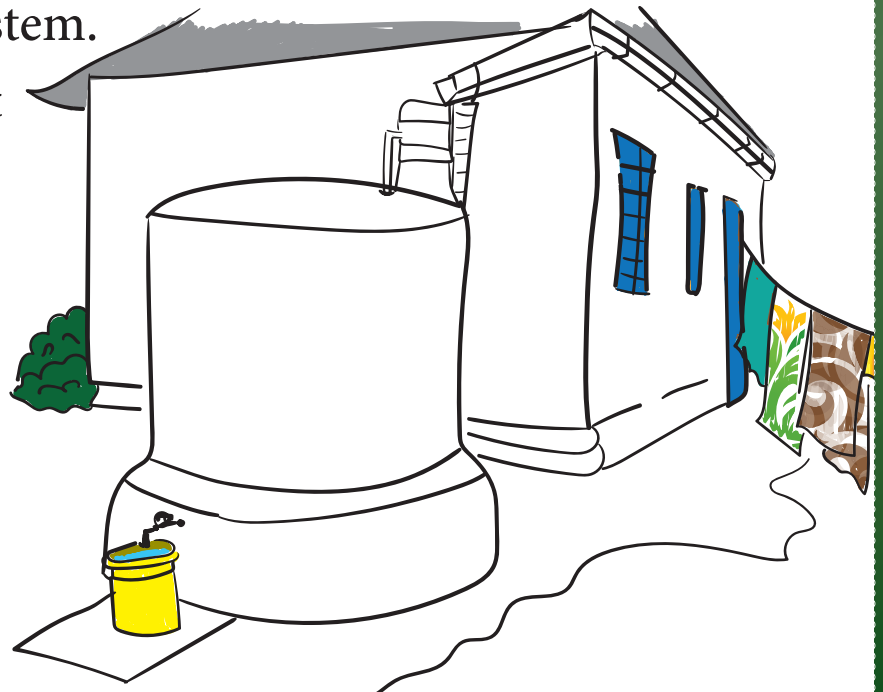


FLOW
NO WATER

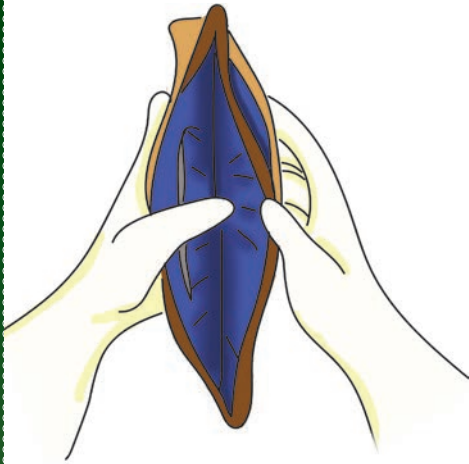
FLOW had done her homework and she knew exactly what she was called to do. She found out that many countries in Africa, India, Australia, and others did not have enough rain, so there was a great shortage of water.

However, she also found out about non-profits that managed this problem. They taught people how to build rain catchment system.

She learned that when one inch of rain falls on a 1,000 square foot roof, it will harvest 600 gallons of water. And 600 gallons of water can fill many



glasses of water, which can help many thirsty children.



FLOW wrote to all the non-profits what she could find and told them that though she was just a cauliflower, who had no money, she sure knew how to grow a garden while not using too much water. She also thanked them for what they were doing, because she was not aware of how many children were sick because of water shortage.

All the non-profits wrote her back....thank goodness for Fred and his reading abilities. They thanked me for caring and sharing. They said if everyone would care and share, we would have a very different world. I made many new friends from the gardens that they grew.

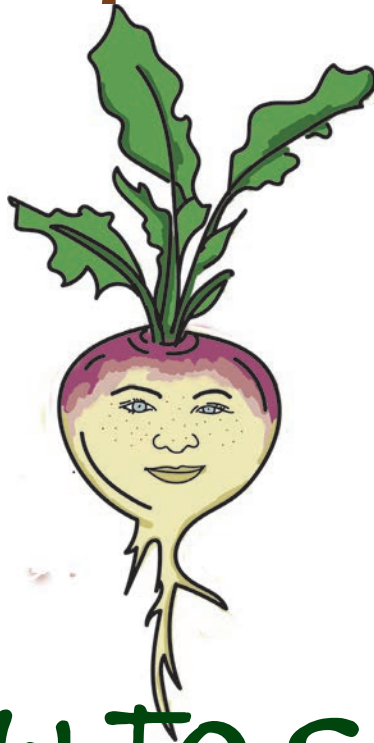
Different color cauliflowers, like red and pink.....what fun!!!!!! Through my efforts, my awareness expanded and I got to explore many different countries, that I never even knew existed.

When I went to sleep, I said, “Cauliflower, you sure flowered into being a better and kinder vegetable, with a bunch of new friends!”



Chapter Five

Turnip Stick

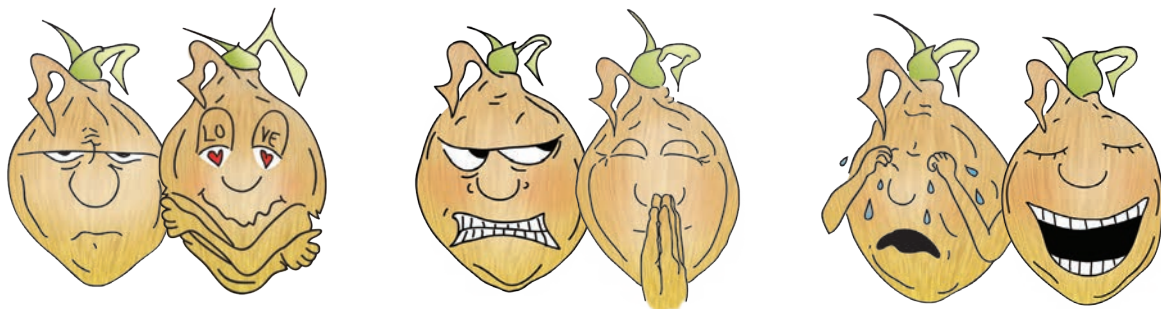


Tow To Sow
NO SAFETY

Poor **TOW** did not know what he was going to do. He was completely overwhelmed with the amount of children there were in the world who did not feel safe. They had problems at home, problems in the street, problems in school, or problems online. “Where should I even begin?”, he asked himself. Bullying had become such a problem and was growing every day. Yikes, he thought...thank God I am a vegetable and live in The Grateful Garden.

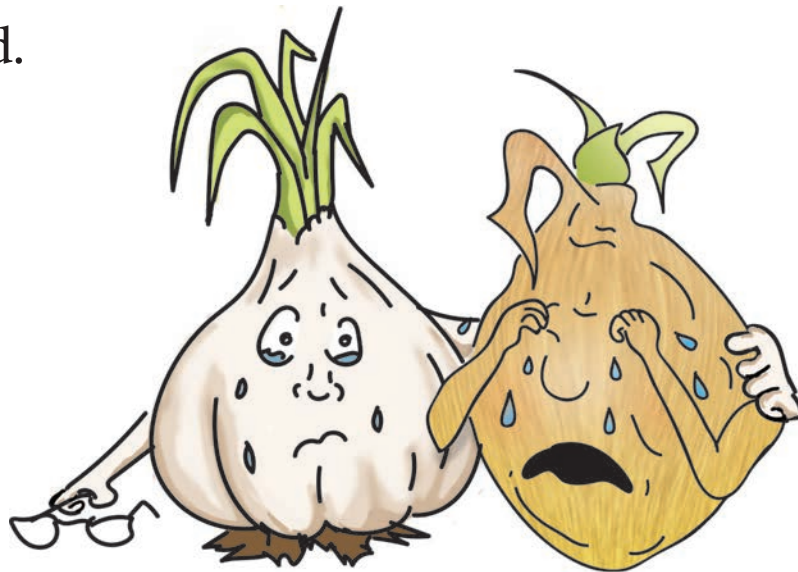
TOW could not understand all this anger and negativity. He went to Fred and asked if he could, with his help, start an ‘online’ website that would put out good news. It would be filled with peaceful ideas, loving thoughts, kind deeds and wonderful suggestions. He did not know what ‘online’ meant at first, but had learned from Onionhead about this. “He seems to **KNOW** everything”, **TOW** thought.

TOW knew he had to change his name from TOW to TOW-SOW. Now that he knew how big the problem was, he knew he could not tow that many kids to safety in a truck or two. However, he thought, I could sow positive seeds from an online website, as a way to transform hate into love, anger into peace and sadness into happiness. But he still felt he could save some children with tow trucks, so he decided to call himself TOW-SOW.



TOW-SOW got everyone together and told them about his problem and idea. His Grandmother told him that to every problem, there is indeed a solution. Now he was really beginning to understand what she meant.

KNOW, **BOW**, **GLOW**, AND **FLOW** were very happy to help **TOW-SOW** because they also felt sad over what had been discovered.



Fred got his friend Kelly to help because she knew how to do websites. She then got Caitlin, who knew how to put it all together. **KNOW** said that children have to know how to help themselves feel better and safer, **BOW** said that children have to be stronger and learn how to defend themselves. **GLOW** said that children have to learn how to feel happier and more childlike. And **FLOW** said that children had to

learn how to go with the flow and place themselves in better situations with kinder people. Together we designed the most incredible website. **TOW-SOW** did not feel bad at all that he was the only one who needed help from the others. In fact, everyone was very excited to help, and we made a great team. **TOW-SOW's** Grandfather told him that team means Together Each Accomplishes More. Now he really believed that. “Anyway,” **TOW-SOW** said “I have always loved team. I would be very lonely without Onionhead, Garlic Bud, Broccoli Stem, and Cauliflower Bunch.”

When the website was finished and up and running, we got thousands of children coming to the site. This made our hearts sing and dance. We were very grateful to Kelly, Caitlin and Fred, as we could not have done this without their help. After all, we are just vegetables!

Chapter Six

Summary

After a good week's sleep, we got together to discuss the outcome of our efforts. We realized that though we could not save all the children of the world, we surely made a dent in their sorrows, despair, and sadness. We decided that each and every day we would make an effort to help some child that was part of the NO problems. Our website made it much easier because we could just ask Fred, Kelly, or Caitlin to help



us find out why they were asking for help and what country they were from. Oh, it is so good to know that this online stuff can be peaceful, loving and useful.

Also, we made so many new friends. We made their life less lonely, and they made our lives much more fulfilled. We have so much gratitude for our beautiful life and now we feel we have shared it with those less fortunate.

Broccoli's Aunt told him that if we are going to take on these problems, we need to have tenacity. But we did not know what tenacity meant. Now that we know how to work on a computer, we looked it up. It means determined and persistent, where you don't give up. Well, we sure had that. We decided to call ourselves **The Tenacious Five** who took on the children's troubles of the world.



My Uncle noticed that I was strutting a bit with my success. He warned me that this was not good. He said, "Onionhead, when you have success, don't brag, be humble and have humility. Bragging takes away from the victories." Wow did my peel get red!



His Uncle went on to share the five rules for
The Tenacious Five...

BE tenacious, yet gracious
BE strong when you're wrong
BE bold and don't fold
BE humble even when you fumble
BE true while being you
And
BE grateful not hateful

TOW-SOW said I am tenacious
BOW said I am strong
FLOW said I am bold
GLOW said I am humble
KNOW said I am true

And together as a team we are all

GRATEFUL

because we come from the

Grateful Garden.



In The Grateful Garden live The Tenacious Five

Who will always and forever strive

To be the best veggies they can be

For you and the world to see.

So, for kids, there can be a better life

With much less trouble, sadness and strife.

For all the children globally to know

That they have friends in Bow, Flow, Glow, Tow-Sow.

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