

Chapter Three

Perkin did as she told him. Very soon, each seed sent up two leaves.

Then two more, then two more and then, to Perkin's surprise, the plants began to spread out all over the patch.

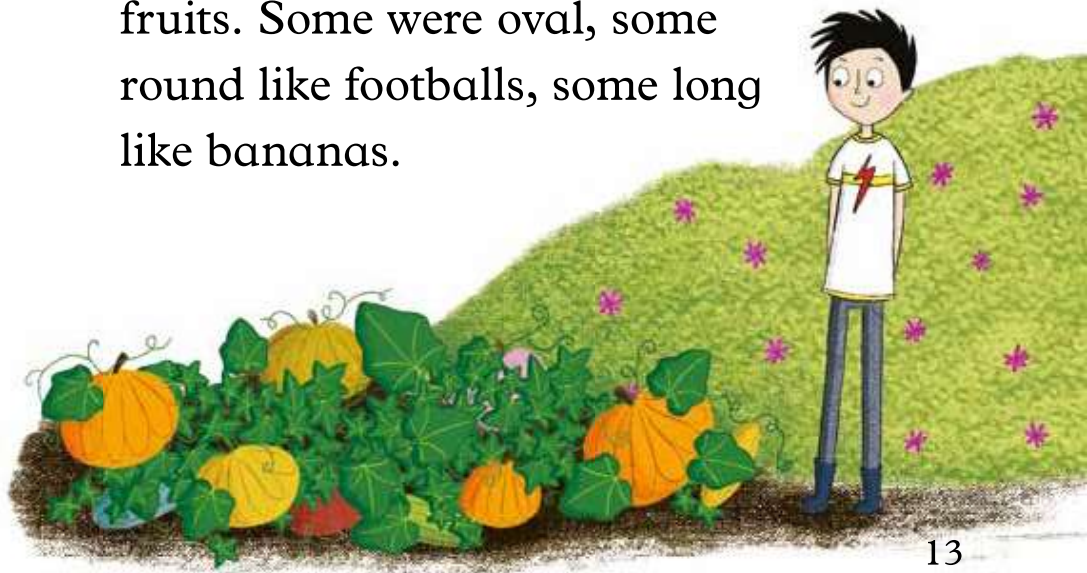


Next Perkin saw flowers beginning to grow on the plants.

Then, at the base of each flower, a fruit began to swell up.



Soon the whole piece of ground was covered with red, orange, yellow, green, pink, blue and golden fruits. Some were oval, some round like footballs, some long like bananas.



Chapter Four

So far this little patch of garden had been Perkin's secret but he had one friend, Cindy, the daughter of the owner and his first wife. She had to work as hard inside as Perkin did outside and she too was always hungry.



One day Perkin showed her his secret garden.



“Perkin, how clever you are to have grown all this!” she said.

Perkin was happy but a bit embarrassed.

“But what are they?” he asked.

“Pumpkins, they’re pumpkins,” she replied. “Fancy you, a gardener, not knowing!” she laughed, but not unkindly.