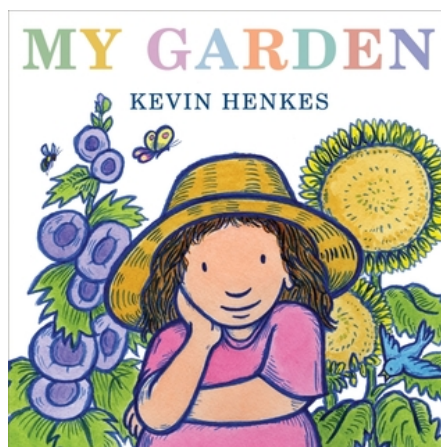




My Garden

Kevin Henkes

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The girl in this book grows chocolate rabbits, tomatoes as big as beach balls, flowers that change color, and seashells in her garden.

How does your garden grow?

My Garden Details

Date : Published February 23rd 2010 by Greenwillow Books

ISBN : 9780061715174

Author : Kevin Henkes

Format : Hardcover 40 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Storytime, Gardening

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From Reader Review My Garden for online ebook

Tegan says

I love her imagination. I would definitely love a garden like this. A fun read-a-long where you could ask the kids what would be or wouldn't be in their garden.

Anna says

My Garden / Kevin Henkes / 2010

Genre: fiction

Format: picture book

Plot Summary: After helping her mother weed, water, and chase the rabbits from their garden, a young girl imagines her dream garden complete with jellybean bushes, chocolate rabbits, and tomatoes the size of beach balls.

Considerations: none

Review Citation:

Booklist May 29 2013

"Young children will enjoy the girl's silly and ingenious exploits in her imaginary garden"

Selection Source: Booklist reviews

Recommended age: 0-5

Sarah Adamson says

I like the general idea of this book and really liked the twist at the end and the beautiful illustrations. However the little girl growing chocolate bunny rabbits and then eating them instead of real bunny rabbits eating her mothers lettuce was just weird and made both me and my daughter go what??! So apart from that glitch, a reasonable kids book.

B.P. says

Young girl imagines her perfect garden. Great colours, illustrations and ideas.

Kathryn says

I didn't know anything about the book and was surprised to discover it is not so much about actual gardening (though there is a real garden the mom and daughter plant) as imaginative gardening as the little girl dreams of having a garden with no weeds or dead plants, and wants to plant seashells (to grow seashells, of course!)

and jellybeans to grow candy plants. And there would be no carrots, because she does not like them ;-)
Overall, I appreciated the imaginative approach, though I do love real rabbits more than chocolate ones!
(You'll see if you read this.)

I love Kevin Henkes, especially his "mouse books" (i.e., Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse) and was so excited when my library finally got a copy of this book. Fittingly enough, it came a few days after we did some planting in our own yard and I read this outside on a very pleasant afternoon :-)
I'm not sure this is one of my favorite Henkes titles (it just lacks that extra depth of the mouse books, IMO, and I am not as big a fan of the illustrations style here) but it's definitely worth exploring especially if you have an imaginative little one interested in gardening.

Wendi Lee says

I borrowed this book from the library for my toddler on a whim. She normally picks books about cartoon animals, but we've been working in the garden together, and I thought it might be a nice change of pace. She loved it so much, she immediately asked me to read it again. I enjoyed the lush artwork and whimsical story. This definitely goes on our to-buy list.

Allison Parker says

Imagination as well as flowers bloom in this book. A young girl, after working in her mother's garden, imagines what her own garden would be like: flowers would change colors, seashells would grow on stems, and carrots would be invisible, because "I don't like carrots." Henkes' artwork is bright and bubbly, often busy pastels that might overwhelm without the blissfully white and simple text pages facing each illustration.

Lisa Vegan says

Chocolate rabbits and strawberry lanterns, and flowers that change their colors and have patterns? Sign me up! No carrots and things such as buttons and umbrellas? No thank you. But, that's what makes this book such fun. Every reader/listener is encouraged to think about what their ideal garden might contain.

A lot of imagination, some humor and some whimsy, and a lot of fun.

I'm not sure I was wild about the illustrations, especially given what they could be given that the story is about gardens, but they're appealing. I did enjoy the many different colored birds.

This isn't one of my favorite Kevin Henkes's books, but it's cute, and it would be fun to hear the garden ideas children come up with after they've read/listened to this book. I'd have loved it as a child; I always wanted a (more conventional) garden.

Lara says

I loved the dreams in her garden. Such a simple imaginative take on gardening. My favorite one was the

garden of seashells. Would be a great addition to a storytime on gardens or imagination.

And yes, this would be my type of garden.

Ann says

I love the concept of this book - a little girl who, while helping her mother in their garden, imagines the type of garden *she* would have. Her imagination is endless, from planting seashells to grow seashells, to jellybeans to grow candy plants, to all sorts of things in between!

I love books that inspire and promote imagination, and this book does just that.

I did feel though that the book needed more connection (the things to plant felt a little too random for me). And the bit about there not being real bunnies in the girl's garden, but instead chocolate bunnies that she could eat seemed just a little disturbing (not that I think it was meant that way, but, it was just a little odd for me...). Plus, I would love real rabbits way more than chocolate ones :)

All in all though it was an enjoyable book with vibrant illustrations!

Sandra says

A girl can dream...

Jo says

After reading the description, I wasn't sure if I was going to like this but I ended up loving it! It's surprisingly cute.

While helping her mother in the garden, a little girl daydreams about what *her* garden would look like if she had one. Tomatoes as big as beach balls, chocolate rabbits instead of real ones, flowers that can change colour just by thinking about it and when you pick a flower, a new one pops up!

I especially enjoyed the jelly bean bush and the strawberries that glow like lanterns.

The illustrations are amazing. Soft pastels and water colours really bring the story to life and the little girl is so adorable. I love the page where she's standing in the midst of hundreds of birds and butterflies.

I think any child would love a garden just like this!

Jacoba says

My Garden by Kevin Henkes (2010)
Genre: Picture book

Format: Book

Plot summary: A young girl imagines her dream garden complete with jellybean bushes, chocolate rabbits, and tomatoes the size of beach balls.

Considerations or precautions for readers advisory (strong language, sex, death, religious overtones, violence, etc.): No special consideration

Review citation (if available: Novelist, Janssen, Carolyn School Library Journal , March 2010, Vol. 56 Issue 3, p119-120

Section source used to find the material: Children's Core Reading, Novelist

Recommended age:K-3rd grade

Kristine Hansen says

A child helps in the garden and daydreams about all the things she would grow if the garden were hers. This was a delight to look at, and was filled with imagination and the wonder of trying to figure out just how things grow and which things planted in soil will net results (like jelly beans or seashells).

I wanted to go back and just look at the pictures all over again after reading this book. This is one that makes me smile, and makes me eager to work outside in my own garden. One for the favorites shelf!

Julia Flath says

Whimsical book about what a girl would grow in her ideal garden. The illustrations make it look like she's having so much fun in the garden.
