



First Place 5th Grade  
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2022 Georgia National Fair  
Fair Bear Creative Writing Competition  
"Fair Bear Plants a Garden"

## Fair Bear Plants a Garden

Fair Bear woke up on a beautiful morning and remembered that his parents were taking him to the Georgia National Fair! When he arrived, he saw his friend Alice. He suddenly felt excited and ran up to Alice to say hi! He was delighted when she agreed to join him for the day!

The first exhibit Fair Bear and Alice came to was the "Starbuck Learning Farm." As they walked through the display, they saw baskets full of tomatoes, cabbage, lettuce, broccoli, cucumbers, and peas. They were amazed that so many healthy, tasty vegetables could be grown in a garden!

After leaving the "Starbuck Learning Farm", Fair Bear and Alice had a brilliant idea! They wanted to plant their own garden. Fair Bear asked his mom to help them. So, they went to Tractor Supply to gather the seeds

and gardening tools they would need - a shovel, a hoe, a stick to poke holes with, and numerous seeds.

With their gardening supplies in hand, Fair Bear and Alice headed to his yard to prepare the garden by tilling the soil. They poked holes with the stick and planted potatoes, carrots, tomatoes, cabbage, cucumbers, and peas. After they finished planting, they stared and stared and waited and waited, but nothing happened!

Fair Bear and Alice were puzzled! They didn't know why the seeds weren't growing. His mom told them their garden would need water, sun, weeding, and time to grow, then she suggested that they have some lunch.

A few days later, to their surprise, the seeds had sprouted, and their garden was growing! As they looked around they saw that there were rabbits nibbling on their crops! Fair Bear and Alice needed a plan! With his mom they rushed to Tractor Supply and returned home with a small wooden fence to protect their garden.

Fair Bear and Alice watered their garden. They pulled weeds and fertilized the soil. It was soon full of healthy, delicious vegetables. There were so many vegetables

that they wanted to share!

Fair Bear and Alice harvested their garden by picking and washing the vegetables. Then, they placed them in plastic containers to give to their neighbors, friends, and local food banks to help others. Their brilliant idea, to plant a garden, was a great and helpful addition to their community!

They felt overjoyed by the success of their garden and proud that they helped others in need in their community.



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What in the world?! All these different fruits and vegetables! Oh, sorry, I forgot to introduce myself. My name is Fair Bear. My parents said I could go to the Georgia National Fair, so I stumbled upon the Starbuck Learning Farm. I have learned about so many vegetables and fruits that can be grown here in Georgia. There are blueberries, figs, cabbage, carrots, and much, much more. On the ride home from the fair, my ears perk up at something I hear on the radio.

“Mom, dad, turn up the radio!” I exclaim.

“That’s right... we have our very own crisis, here in Georgia. People are getting lower salaries due to overhired businesses, meaning people don’t have enough money to buy food,” the news reporter rambled.

“That’s such a shame! If only the Starbuck Learning Farm could give people food...” said dad sadly.

“Maybe it can,” I mutter.

Once we get home, I call my friend Stephen Fox. I explain my idea to him, and we agree to create the plan tomorrow after school. The next day, Stephen comes over.

"OK, we only have a small amount of time, but if we work hard, we can plant a big garden full of veggies and fruits to feed people in Georgia," I exclaim.

First, Stephen and I search up what veggies and fruits grow in Georgia. Next, we go to the store and buy seeds. Then we start planting! I dig a hole, Stephen puts in the seeds, and then I cover up the hole. We only get a few rows done, but, hey, it's progress!

The next day Stephen and I go check on the plants, but something is wrong. The ground is cracked, and the sprouts we had before have now fallen over.

"That's weird. I think I'm going to research a little," I say to Stephen.

I look up on my phone what the cause could be, and it says that underwatering could be the cause.

"We need to water them," I say to Stephen. We spend the rest of the day watering. After a week, I decide to tell Stephen we are about done.

"Listen, Stephen, we don't have much left to do, so I think I will take it from here," I say.

"Thank you," he replies.

As he leaves, he waves. What am I going to do with all the fruits and vegetables? Maybe

I can give them out for free at the park. I make a lot of flyers and go through town putting them up. Then, I set up a booth in the park. After a few hours, a man comes by.

"Hi, I am a news reporter. It is very generous of you to be doing this. Would you tell me where you got the idea?" he asks.

I take a bite out of a carrot and gesture to the watermelons, strawberries, squash, Sweet corn, and tomatoes.

"What, all this stuff?" I ask. "It all started with the Starbuck Learning Farm!"



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"Woah!" Fair Bear exclaimed as he walked away from the Starbuck Learning Farm. The Starbuck Learning Farm was a place at the Georgia National Fair where you learned how to grow your own food. Inspired to grow his own garden, Fair Bear decided to go ahead and get home so that he could start as soon as possible.

When he got home to plant his garden, he realized just how bland his backyard really was. "I need to lighten this place up," Fair Bear thought. He looked around and only saw dark grass, dead flowers, and dead leaves. Sad trees rose up around him as well. He decided that planting a garden would not only help with getting food, but would also help liven up his home.

Before he started though, his mind wandered. "What if it doesn't work?" and, "What if this is just a waste of time?" His thoughts wavered about

whether or not he should put time into this, but then he remembered the importance of planting gardens and growing and excitement, his food was ready for harvesting. Later on, when he had harvested every last bit of food, he cleansed all of it off and headed to his local food bank. There he would donate half of all his corn and carrots.

He felt so good about himself after donating all of that food that he decided from then on, he would donate half of the food he grew to his local food bank, and that is exactly what he did. Over the next year or so, Fair Bear grew very many different foods such as blueberries, oranges, cabbage, and collards. Much of which he donated to that same food bank so that less people in his community would be hungry well into the future.