



First Place 6th Grade
Malone Poole
West Laurens Sixth Grade Academy, Dublin
Laurens County School System

2022 Georgia National Fair
Fair Bear Creative Writing Competition
“Fair Bear Plants a Garden”

“DAD! ARE WE THERE YET!!!?” yelled Joey, Fair Bear’s 5 year old son. “Actually, we are!” He and his son looked at each other with great enthusiasm. Fair Bear loved this place because he had many great memories when he was here. He started feeling the cool fall breeze gently blow past his ear. He remembered the time when he came and trained to go to space. He was happy to be back, and he was happy his son would get to make new memories and hopefully remember this place for his kids and grandchildren.

He got his ticket and stepped through the gates. People goggled at him but others cheered. He was pretty well known around here! His son tugged on his shirt, “Can we go on the rides, Dad?” I snapped out of my daze and replied with, “We will come back another day for rides, but not today.” A faint hint of disappointment fell across his face, yet we proceeded in pleasure. The lovely aroma of freshly fried corn dogs lured me towards the western area of the fair, that

was when I saw something that caught my eye. A lovely garden filled with many colors of vegetables. A wide variety of vegetables and fruits filled the garden such as figs, peaches, blueberries, corn, beans, peanuts, and oranges. He was amazed at this new garden. He wondered how this could benefit his community.

Joey sprinted towards the glorious abundance of food and started admiring the colorful, brightly colored foods. I exclaimed, "Do you like the garden, Joey?" Joey then yelled in his cute little voice, "Yes, Dad, we make our own garden!" That was when a sudden realization came into my head. This is a great idea! I told Joey to come, and we raced back to the car. When we made it home, I rummaged through my storage closet. Many things were thrown haphazardly through there, shirts, moldy cheese, and rusty tools. I never let my wife go in there because I knew it would stress her out.

I pulled out a small drawer and gathered seeds, gardening supplies, and some gloves. I carefully dug rows and planted my seeds. I watered them everyday, waiting anxiously for my seeds to grow. I made sure the soil was not too dry and they did not get too hot. Then, after waiting months, they were fully grown and looked magnificent. I plucked some of my favorite

Vegetables and fruits, blueberries, corn, oranges, and peaches. Then I hopped in the car and drove down to my local food bank. I handed the lady the fresh vegetables. The lady thanked me graciously and said the food would go to people in need. When I was home that day, I felt nice knowing I did something to help those in need. That night we feasted on roasted corn, baked apples, and peach cobbler. All of this food was delectable and we all slept better with big full bellies full of delicious, home grown food.



Second Place 6th Grade
Brodie Burchett
Ware County Middle School, Waycross
Ware County School District

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After Fair Bear was amazed by the new Starbuck Learning Farm, he decided to plant one of his own for his family and a little extra for him to donate to the local food bank. After he left the Georgia National Fair amazed by the learning farm he asked his mom if they could get some seeds from the farmers market for his garden. He was stunned at how many seeds there were for sale. There were orange seeds, fig seeds, corn seeds, and many more. When Fair Bear had all of his seeds picked out he and his mom went home.

When they got home Fair Bear sorted all the packs of seeds into groups. One group of seeds were the fruit seeds and the other group of seeds were the veggie seeds. After he counted all the seeds he found out he had seven different seeds in all. He had three fruit seeds and four veggie seeds. The three fruit seeds were bears favorite fruits which are blackberries, raspberries, and apples. Now getting into the veggie seeds. He picked out carrot, beets, potatoes, and corn seeds which are bears and other wild lifes favorite veggies.

After he sorted all the types of seeds Fair Bear stated “Dad lets go outside and put them in the ground.” His dad chuckled and said, “You can’t just go put them in the ground. You first have to till up the dirt so it will be soft.” Fair Bear was puzzled. He thought you could just put them in the ground. His dad didn’t know much so he took Fair Bear to Farmer Dove’s house where his award

winning garden is located). When they arrived Farmer Dove was out in his magnificent garden. When Farmer Dove noticed who arrived he fluttered happily towards the bears. "Well howdy," chirped Farmer Dove. "What brings y'all here?" Fair Bear's Dad states, "Well my son Fair Bear here has some questions about planting a garden."

"Well hit me with all the questions you want son," Farmer Dove clucked. "So, Mister Dove how should I start my garden and what tools will I need," asked Fair Bear? Farm Dove first suggested Fair Bear start small, and told him he had just the prize for him. Farmer Dove then went into his garden shed and pulled out a large box that Fair Bear could read writing on the side that said, "Papa Doves Garden Started Kit. Farmer Dove then stated "Fair Bear I want you to have this. My papa gave this to me when I first started my garden." Fair Bear was so excited, he promised to take good care of it and return it when he was done.

When Fair Bear and his dad got home they opened the kit and got started. Fair Bear had an Angled Shovel, A garden rake, water hose, and some fertilizer. They went outside and found the perfect spot for the garden. Fair Bear then started to till up the dirt and planted his seeds. Each morning and evening he would water his garden if needed, and every two to three weeks he would fertilize his garden. One night at dinner he shared a quote with his family by W.E. Johns, "One of the most delightful things about a garden is the anticipation it provides."

The week before Thanksgiving Fair Bears garden was complete. He picked the produce and had two extra boxes to donate to the local food bank in town. The boxes consisted of the berries and veggies. Fair Bear invited Farmer Dove over for Thanksgiving and before they blessed the food they took a walk around the garden. Fair Bear handed Farmer Dove back Papa Doves garden kit and said with a smile, "This garden tells a story and how will the next chapter begin?"



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One autumn evening, Fair Bear and his mom were at their local grocery store. They were shopping like normal until suddenly a man came on the intercom and said, “All new... Starbuck Learning Farm at the Georgia National Fair. Fair Bear was filled with joy and asked his mom if he could go. His mom told him that his plans sounded like a great idea. The next day, Fair Bear woke up as early as possible. His mom had already prepared breakfast, his favorite, fried mushrooms. Then he got dressed and went to the car, and they were off.

When they got to the Georgia National Fair, Fair Bear saw all the amazing foods like pizza, cotton candy, pancakes, ice cream and even more mouthwatering foods. However, Fair Bear knew what he came for. So they went straight to the Starbuck Learning Farm. Fair Bear knew that he wanted a garden just like the one on display.

While they were visiting the farm, there was a tour guide, Miss Sam, helping Fair bear and his mom see everything. She carried them through the exhibits and explained the exciting showcases detailing farming, owning and tending a garden, and even the tools they might need. Miss Sam taught them how to harvest fruits and vegetables. They also were able to attend a special cooking class. On

the way back to their den, they stopped at the Blackbear Essentials Store. The bear store had everything from fish to den flooring. In the store, they purchased two small shovels, seeds, a wheelbarrow, weed killer, and a watering can. They also wanted things to make a garden spot like soil, fertilizer, and big rocks to put around the garden.

When they returned home, Fair Bear asked his best friend, Care Bear, who happened to live next door, if he wanted to help. Of course he said yes. They first pulled all the big weeds out of the spot where Fair Bear wanted to plant his garden. Then they spread the weed killer. They had to wait three days until they could finish the garden. When Fair Bear and Care Bear went back to finish the flower garden, there were no weeds at all. The first thing they did was put some soil and fertilizer down on the fresh dirt. Next, they planted the seeds including Berry flowers, and Passion flowers.

The next month all of Fair Bear's flowers were pretty and smelled great. He was so excited he got the idea from the StarBuck Learning Farm. He learned what tools to use when gardening, how to cook, and see how big or small some plants actually are. Now Fair Bear and his family plants a garden every year once in the spring/summer and once in the fall/autumn. Fair Bear now owns a flower garden, and a water garden. His favorite is still the flower garden.