



The Ugly Vegetables

By Grace Lin

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It's easy to appreciate a garden exploding with colorful flowers and fragrances, but what do you do with a patch of ugly vegetables? Author/illustrator Grace Lin recalls such a garden in this charming and eloquent story.

The neighbors' gardens look so much prettier and so much more inviting to the young gardener than the garden of "black-purple-green vines, fuzzy wrinkled leaves, prickly stems, and a few little yellow flowers" that she and her mother grow. Nevertheless, mother assures her that "these are better than flowers." Come harvest time, everyone agrees as those ugly Chinese vegetables become the tastiest, most aromatic soup they have ever known. As the neighborhood comes together to share flowers and ugly vegetable soup, the young gardener learns that regardless of appearances, everything has its own beauty and purpose.

The Ugly Vegetables springs forth with the bright and cheerful colors of blooming flowers and bumpy, ugly vegetables. Grace Lin's colorful, playful illustrations pour forth with abundant treasures. Complete with a guide to the Chinese pronunciation of the vegetables and the recipe for ugly vegetable soup! Try it . . . you'll love it, too!

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The Ugly Vegetables By Grace Lin Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In this debut children's book, a girl and her mother chart their own course in spring planting and reap the benefits. The girl narrator is clearly disappointed when, unlike her neighbors who prepare flower gardens, she and her mother plant Chinese vegetables that, her mother insists, are "better than flowers." While the other backyards yield colorful blooms, her garden becomes crowded with "ugly vegetables," lumpy, bumpy and "icky yellow." But when the girl's mother uses them to make a soup, its "magical aroma" attracts neighbors to their door carrying bouquets of flowers from their gardens. Though the pacing of the text is a bit uneven, the mother's confidence in the garden's success and Lin's message of community togetherness buoy up the narrative. A charming, childlike quality infuses the artwork; boldly hued gouache pictures feature skies and lawns as patterned as the girl's kitchen wallpaper and curtains. For ambitious young gardeners and would-be chefs, an illustrated glossary of the vegetables and their Chinese characters along with a soup recipe conclude the volume. Ages 3-8. (July)

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From School Library Journal

Kindergarten-Grade 3 A Chinese-American girl and her mother grow a vegetable garden in a neighborhood where everyone else grows flowers. The girl thinks their plants are ugly compared to flowers, but soon learns that vegetables can make a very delicious soup one that the whole neighborhood wants to try. Soon everyone is growing Chinese vegetables as well as flowers. A recipe for "Ugly Vegetable Soup" is included. Lin's brightly colored gouache illustrations perfectly match her story, creating a patchwork-quilt effect as the neighbors' backyards all converge. Families of all kinds engage in all sorts of activities while children play happily together. Each double-page spread is a different color with a different pattern scattered lightly across it, serving as a frame for the illustrations and as background for the text. A lovely, well-formatted book with an enjoyable multicultural story. Judith Constantinides, East Baton Rouge Parish Main Library, LA

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From [Booklist](#)

While the neighbors' gardens burgeon with bloom, a troubled child sees nothing but wrinkled leaves and dark vines growing in hers. She doubts her mother's claim that what she is growing is actually better than flowers--until the harvested *sheau hwang gua*, *torng hau*, and other Chinese vegetables have been chopped into the soup pot, and neighbors, drawn by the delicious smell, appear at the door with armloads of flowers and big appetites. Filling spaces with curlicues and dabs of color, Lin places her characters in a tidy suburban setting replete with happy families playing on unfenced, wildflower-dotted lawns. Closing with a recipe and glossary, this brief consciousness raiser makes a mouth watering companion for Rosemary Wells' *Yoko* (1998) or books like Nora Dooley's multicultural standby, *Everybody Cooks Rice* (1991). *John Peters*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jessie Nathan:

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important take action, like looking for your favorite publication and reading a e-book. Beside you can solve your short lived problem; you can add your knowledge by the book entitled The Ugly Vegetables. Try to face the book The

Ugly Vegetables as your friend. It means that it can to become your friend when you really feel alone and beside associated with course make you smarter than before. Yeah, it is very fortuned for yourself. The book makes you considerably more confidence because you can know anything by the book. So , let me make new experience along with knowledge with this book.

Dan Villanueva:

Information is provisions for folks to get better life, information presently can get by anyone in everywhere. The information can be a expertise or any news even restricted. What people must be consider when those information which is in the former life are challenging to be find than now is taking seriously which one is suitable to believe or which one the resource are convinced. If you receive the unstable resource then you obtain it as your main information you will see huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen throughout you if you take The Ugly Vegetables as the daily resource information.

Rachel Addison:

The book untitled The Ugly Vegetables contain a lot of information on the item. The writer explains the woman idea with easy technique. The language is very simple to implement all the people, so do not worry, you can easy to read that. The book was compiled by famous author. The author brings you in the new era of literary works. It is easy to read this book because you can read more your smart phone, or model, so you can read the book inside anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can wide open their official web-site along with order it. Have a nice learn.

Marianne Stomain:

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