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# The Little Gardeners



Louise F. Encking

Pictures by  
Marigard Bantzer



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# FOREWORD

Miss Encking found this picture book in Bavaria last summer and brought it home with her. It is a story of work and helpfulness with sunshine and the fresh out-of-doors in every picture. John and Joanne loved their garden and helped to make it and to eat the good things that grew in it. When you have read this book, you will want a garden yourself and you will know how to help care for it.

Emma L. Brock

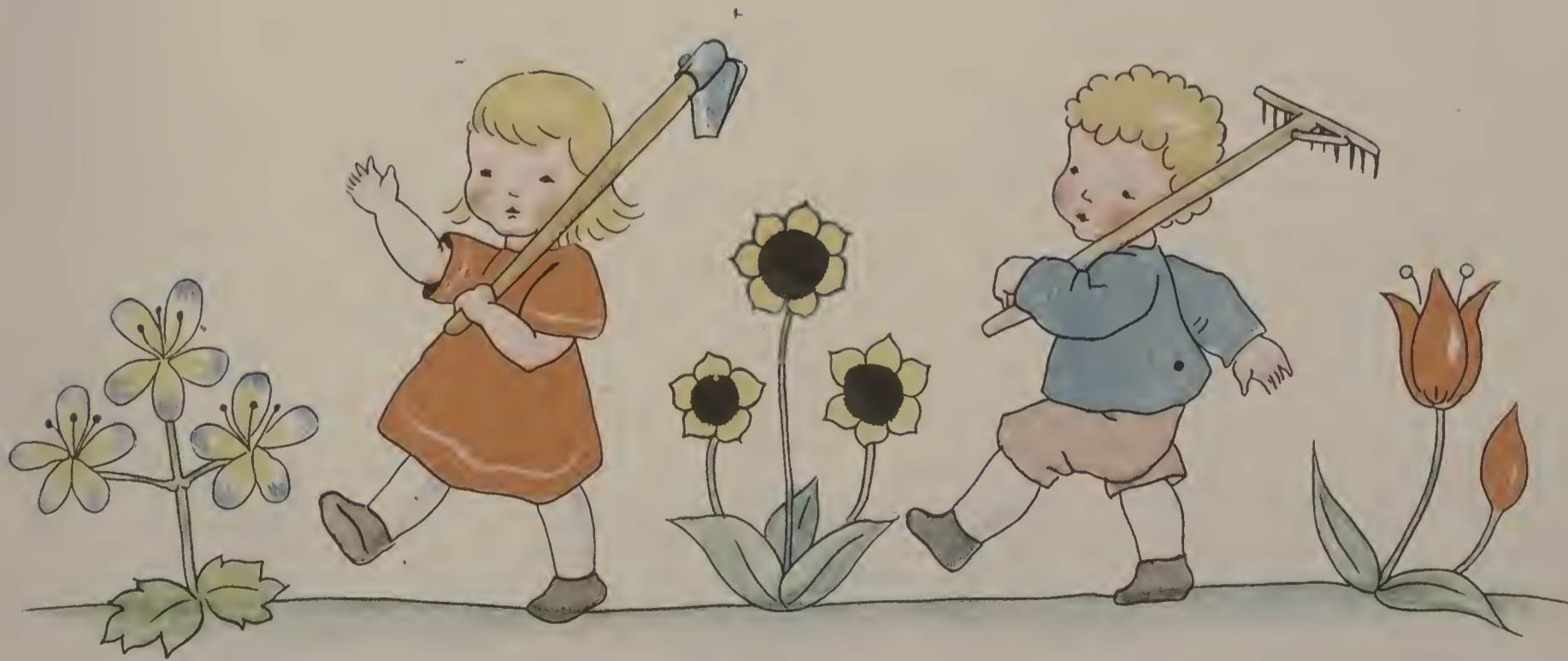
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# The Little Gardeners

From the German of  
Elizabeth Morgenstern

Retold by  
Louise F. Encking

With Pictures by  
Marigard Bantzer



Albert Whitman & Company

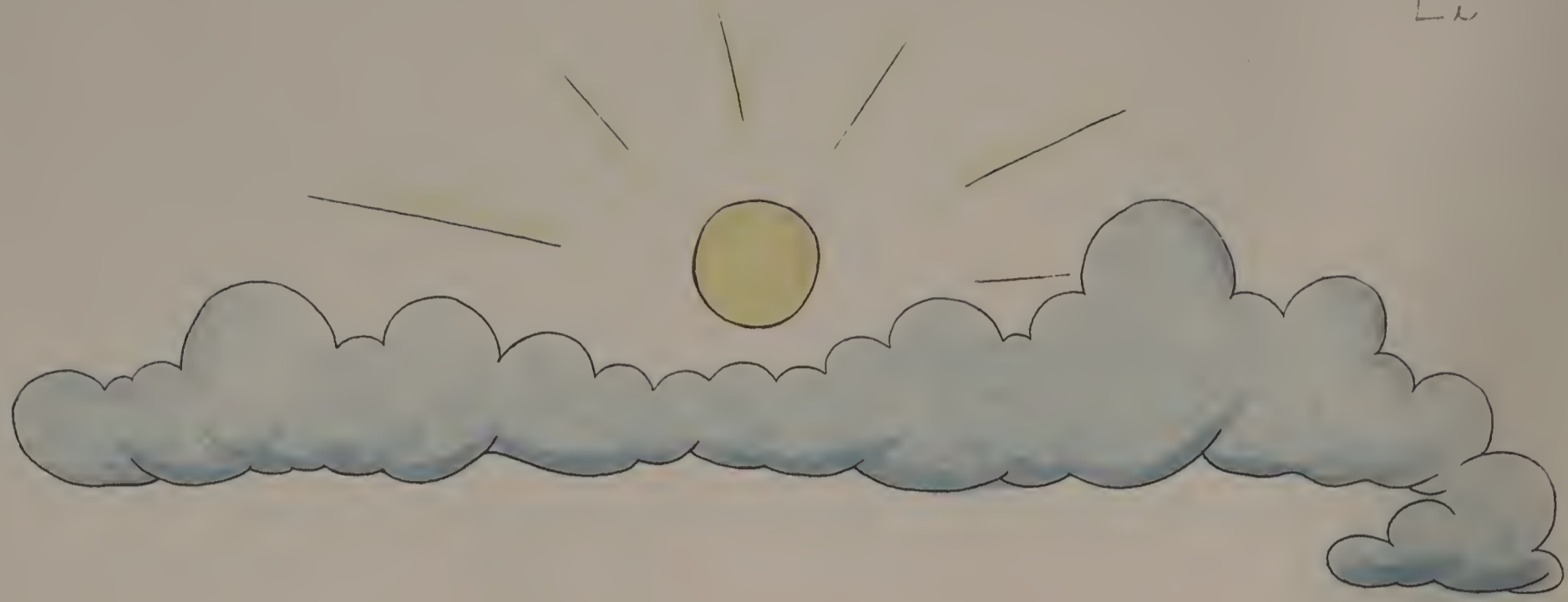
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Printed in Bavaria



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John and Joanne are a little boy and girl who have just moved with their parents into their new home. All around the house lies good ground for a garden. John and Joanne want to help their father to make a garden.



"First we must build a fence to keep out dogs and chickens which like to dig and scratch," says Father.

Soon the fence is built. It has a gate that John helps to paint.



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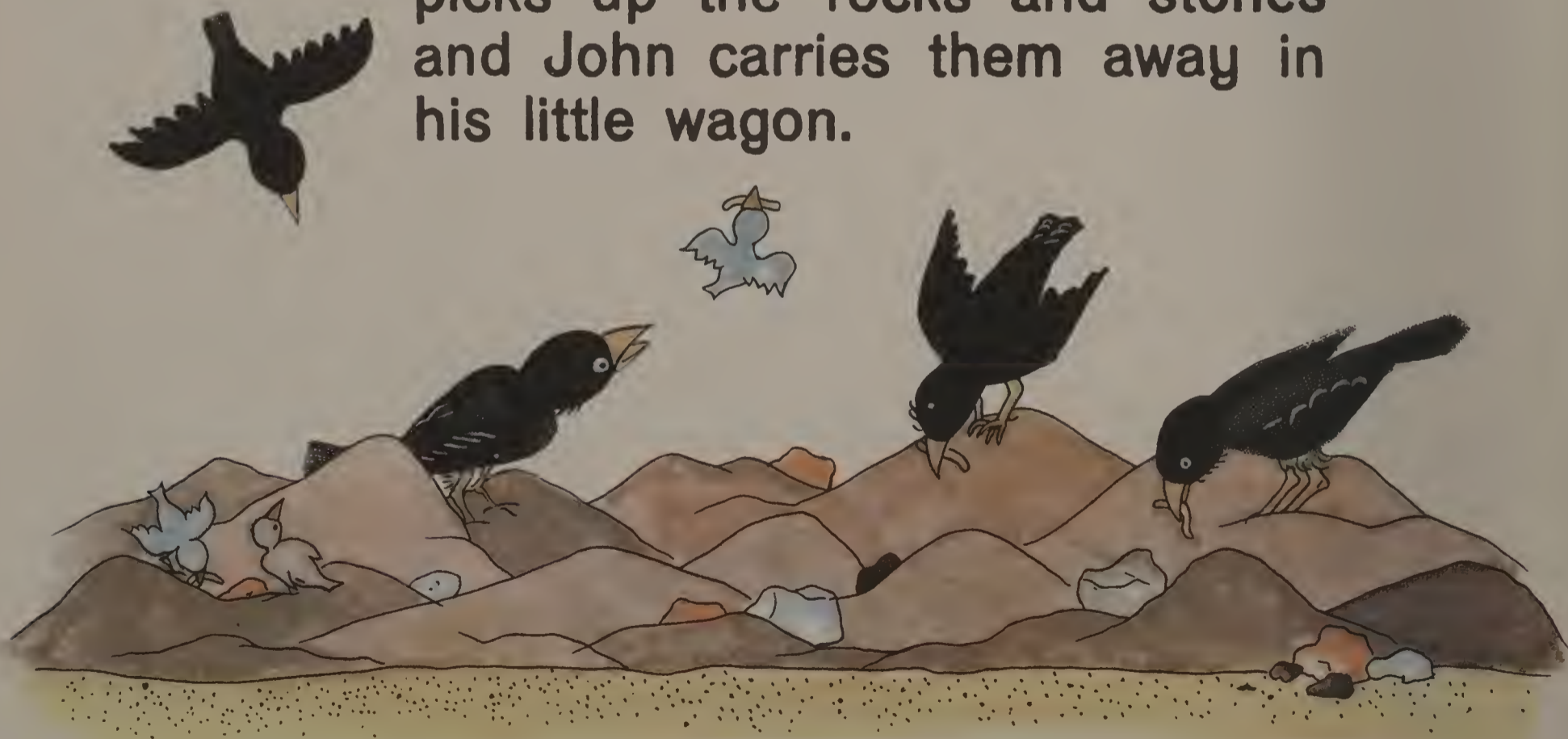




“We need a path to walk through our garden,” says Father. “It must be stamped down until it is hard and flat, and then it must be covered with gravel.”

Two little children from nearby come over to watch.

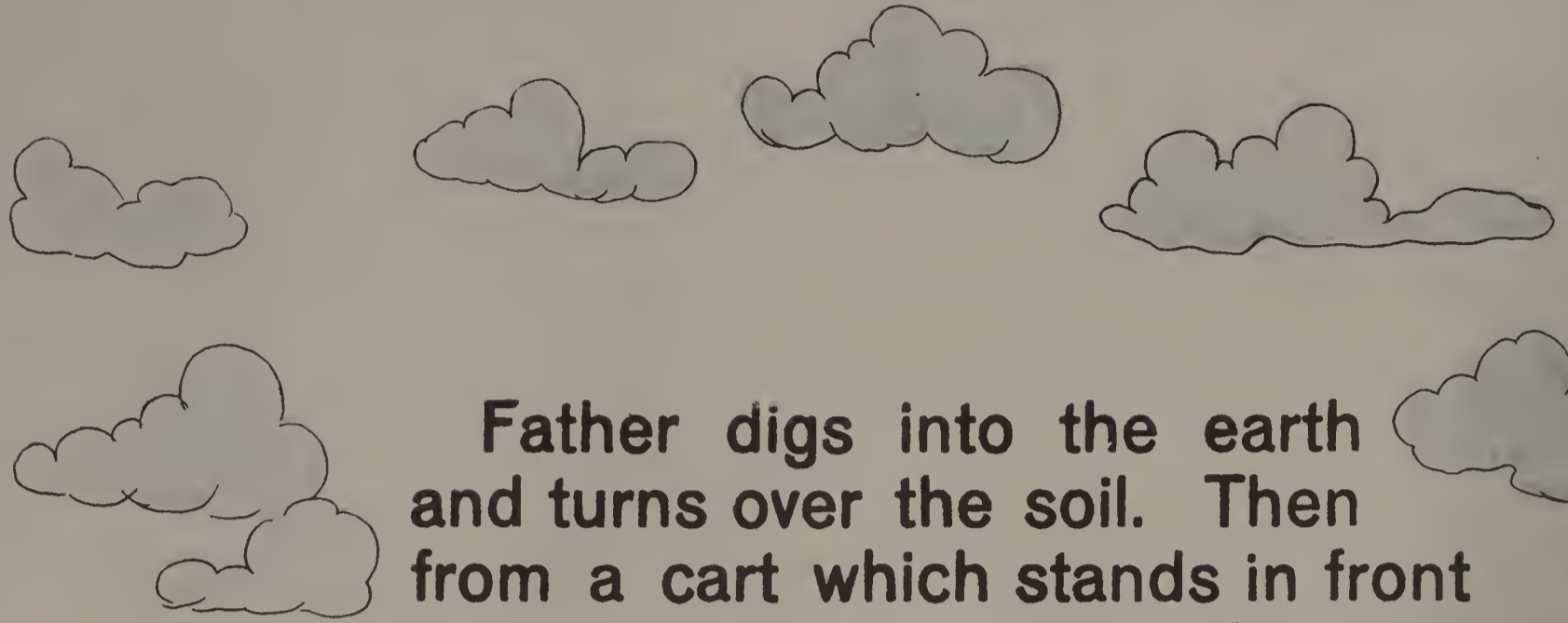
Father pushes the spade into the ground and begins to dig. See the large lumps of earth turn up! The blackbirds hover about to get the angleworms as Father turns up the soil. Joanne picks up the rocks and stones and John carries them away in his little wagon.







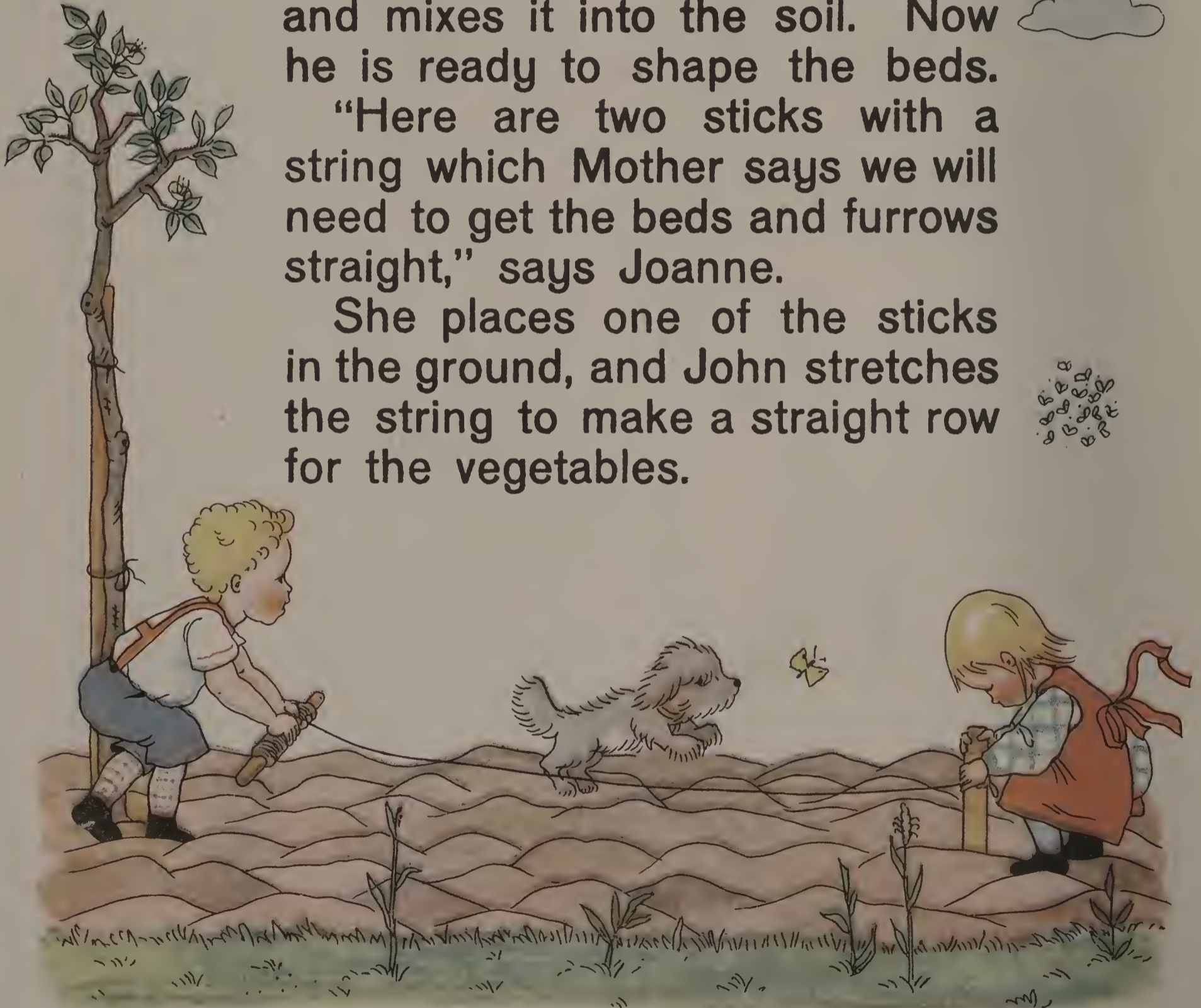
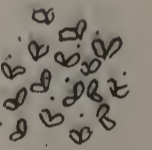




Father digs into the earth and turns over the soil. Then from a cart which stands in front of the gate, he takes fertilizer and mixes it into the soil. Now he is ready to shape the beds.

"Here are two sticks with a string which Mother says we will need to get the beds and furrows straight," says Joanne.

She places one of the sticks in the ground, and John stretches the string to make a straight row for the vegetables.





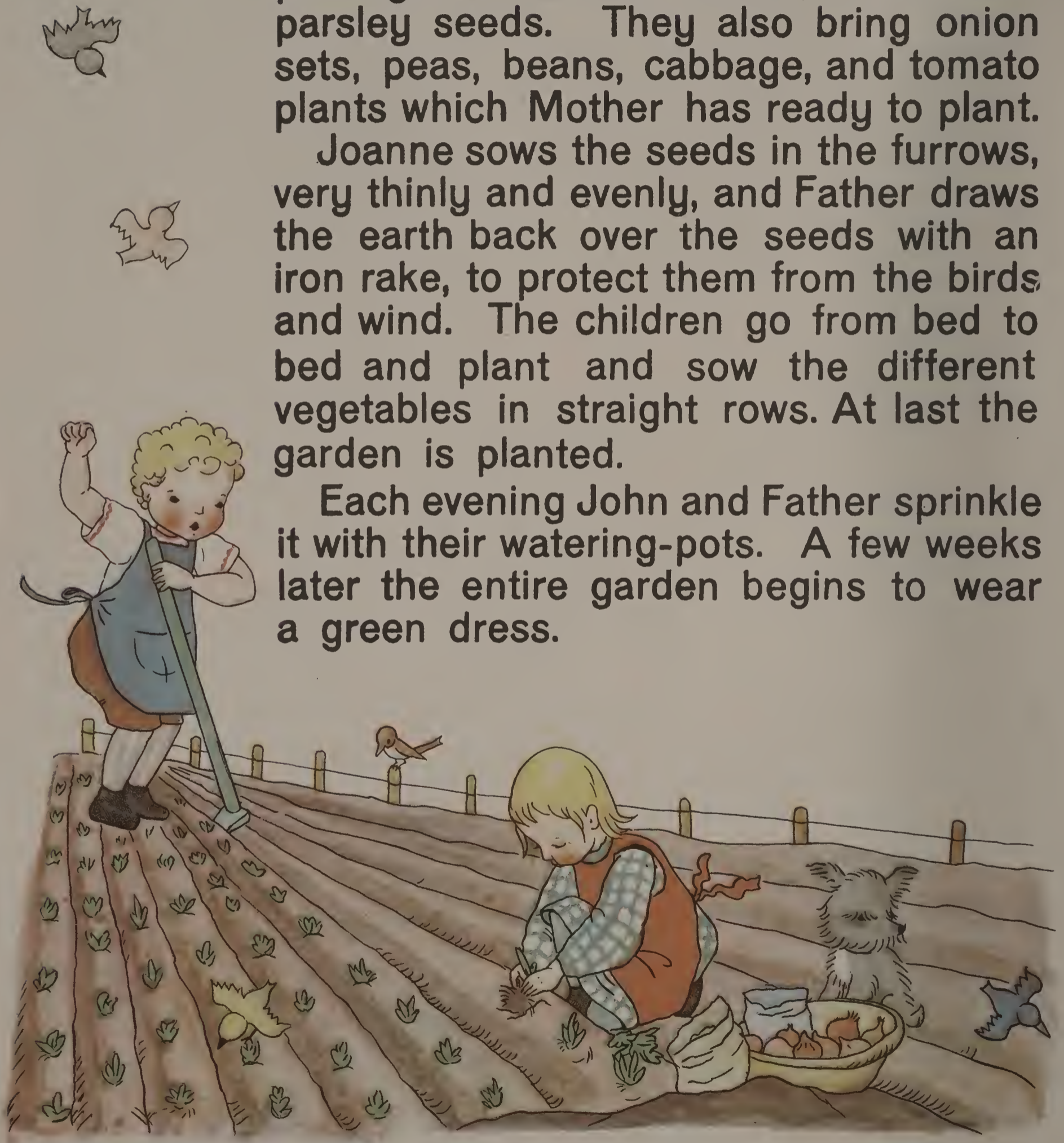




John and Joanne bring Father little packages of lettuce, radish, carrot, and parsley seeds. They also bring onion sets, peas, beans, cabbage, and tomato plants which Mother has ready to plant.

Joanne sows the seeds in the furrows, very thinly and evenly, and Father draws the earth back over the seeds with an iron rake, to protect them from the birds and wind. The children go from bed to bed and plant and sow the different vegetables in straight rows. At last the garden is planted.

Each evening John and Father sprinkle it with their watering-pots. A few weeks later the entire garden begins to wear a green dress.







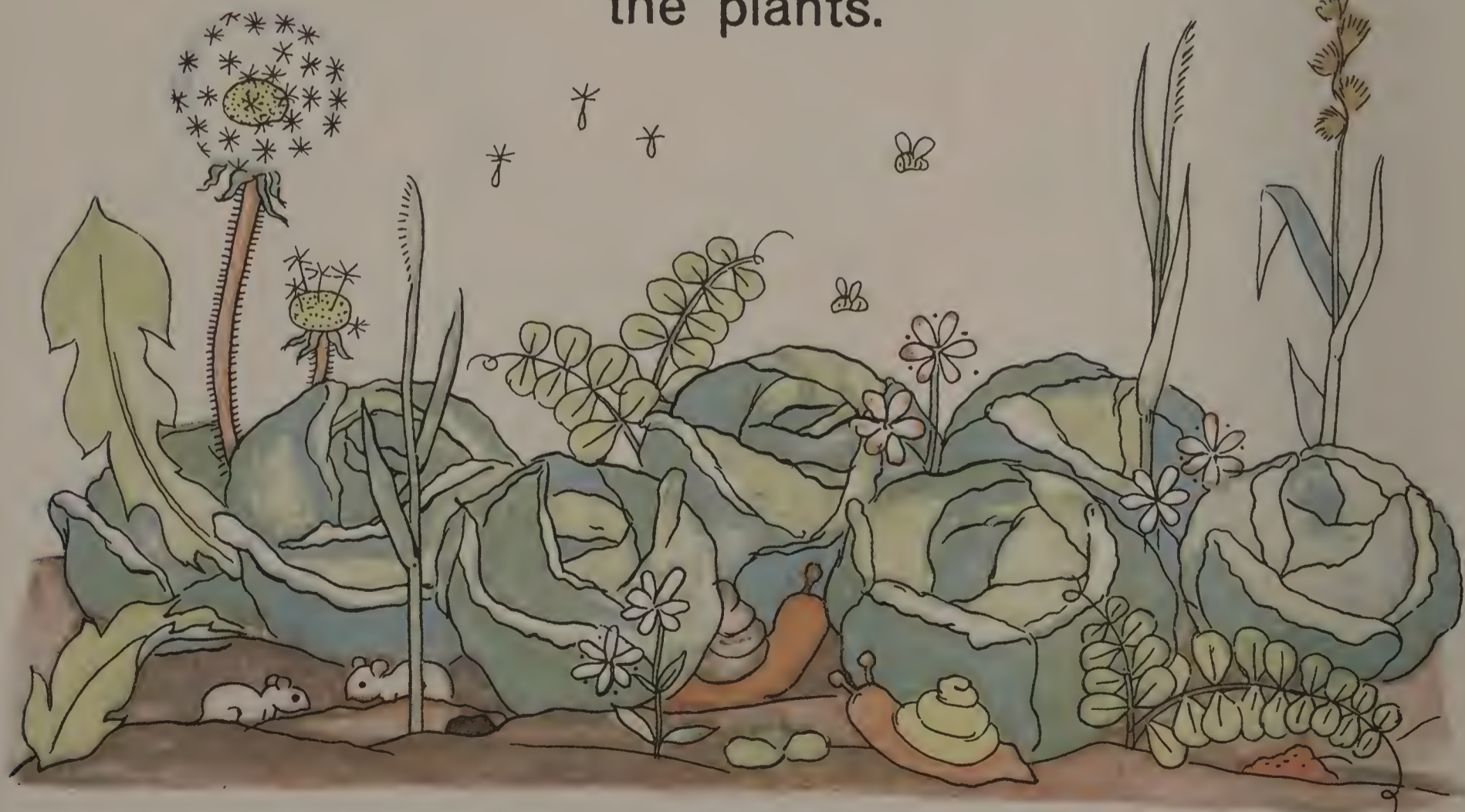


Vegetables are not the only things that grow in the garden. Weeds also appear and they must be pulled up or they will choke the vegetables.

Each evening Father spends many hours weeding. He knows just which plants are weeds and is very careful not to pull up vegetables. Soon the garden is growing nicely. After a few weeks Mother gathers lettuce, carrots, and peas for dinner. Then—more



troubles arrive—worms on the cabbage, bugs on the potato plants and other vegetables. These pests, like the weeds, must be destroyed or the vegetables will not grow. Father destroys these pests by spraying the plants.









All the vegetables are ripe now. There were fine healthy strawberry plants in the garden when the family moved to their new home, and this year they are loaded with big red berries.

Today is bright and sunny. John and Joanne pick a basket full of the largest and ripest berries, which are so large that it requires just a few to fill the basket.

Mother has a big surprise for them in the afternoon when she plans to use the strawberries. She has invited all their little friends to a party.









The table is set out under the apple tree where the apples hang red and ripe. The children have strawberries and ice-cream to eat, and lemonade with raspberry juice to drink.

They have a happy time eating and playing under the apple tree. But best of all,



each one is given a fancy lantern as a favor. As the sun disappears in the West, they all start for home, calling, "Goodbye, many thanks. We had a good time. Auf Wiedersehen."



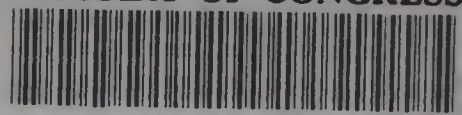








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