

The Herb Garden

Grandma had an herb garden. It was full of many herbs, and Grandma knew what to use all of them for. Herbs were a lot like leafy vegetables, but they had a lot of flavor. Sara could smell the herbs before she even stepped into the garden.

“What’s that one for?” asked Sara, pointing to one that looked like a little Christmas tree.

“That’s Rosemary, and it’s wonderful on meat, especially grilled pork.”

“How about that one?”

“Thyme.” Grandma answered.

Sara looked confused. “Time, like a watch tells time?”

Grandma smiled. “It is spelled t-h-y-m-e, but it does sound like that. I think it’s good on poultry.” Grandma handed her granddaughter a piece of green leaf from another herb.

“This one tastes soapy.” Sara frowned and made a face.

“I don’t think so, but not everyone likes cilantro. It’s often used in Spanish cooking, and in sauces. I like it in guacamole and with seasoned rice.”

“I know that one! It’s parsley. They use that as garnish in restaurants.” Sara grinned proudly.

“That’s true, but it also has a mild, clean taste that makes it useful in a few dishes we like, or it can be chopped over baked potatoes. It goes well with the chives over there and the shallots over there.” Grandma pointed out two places in the herb garden that looked like tubular grass was growing.

Just then, Sara saw Grandma’s cat, Mittens, playing in the garden. “Mittens really likes that one.”

“She ought to, because it’s catnip!” Grandma grinned. She plucked a round, glossy leaf off of another herb and savored it in her mouth.

Sara tried one also. “This is nice, like spaghetti sauce.”

“It’s basil, and it’s often used in Italian cooking. It’s one of my favorites.”

“Mine, too.” Sara agreed with a smile.

Grandma went on to explain the uses of other herbs as well, like Marjoram, Mint, and Dill. There really were a lot of useful and tasty plants out there! Sara learned a lot.



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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What kind of garden does Grandma have?
 - A. herb
 - B. flower
 - C. vegetable
 - D. rock

2. Which herb did Sara think tasted like soap?
 - A. basil
 - B. cilantro
 - C. catnip
 - D. thyme

3. Which herb did Sara and Grandma both like?
 - A. basil
 - B. cilantro
 - C. catnip
 - D. thyme

4. Which herb did Mittens really like?
 - A. basil
 - B. cilantro
 - C. catnip
 - D. thyme

5. Which herb did Sara already use for from restaurants?
 - A. marjoram
 - B. dill
 - C. chives
 - D. parsley

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