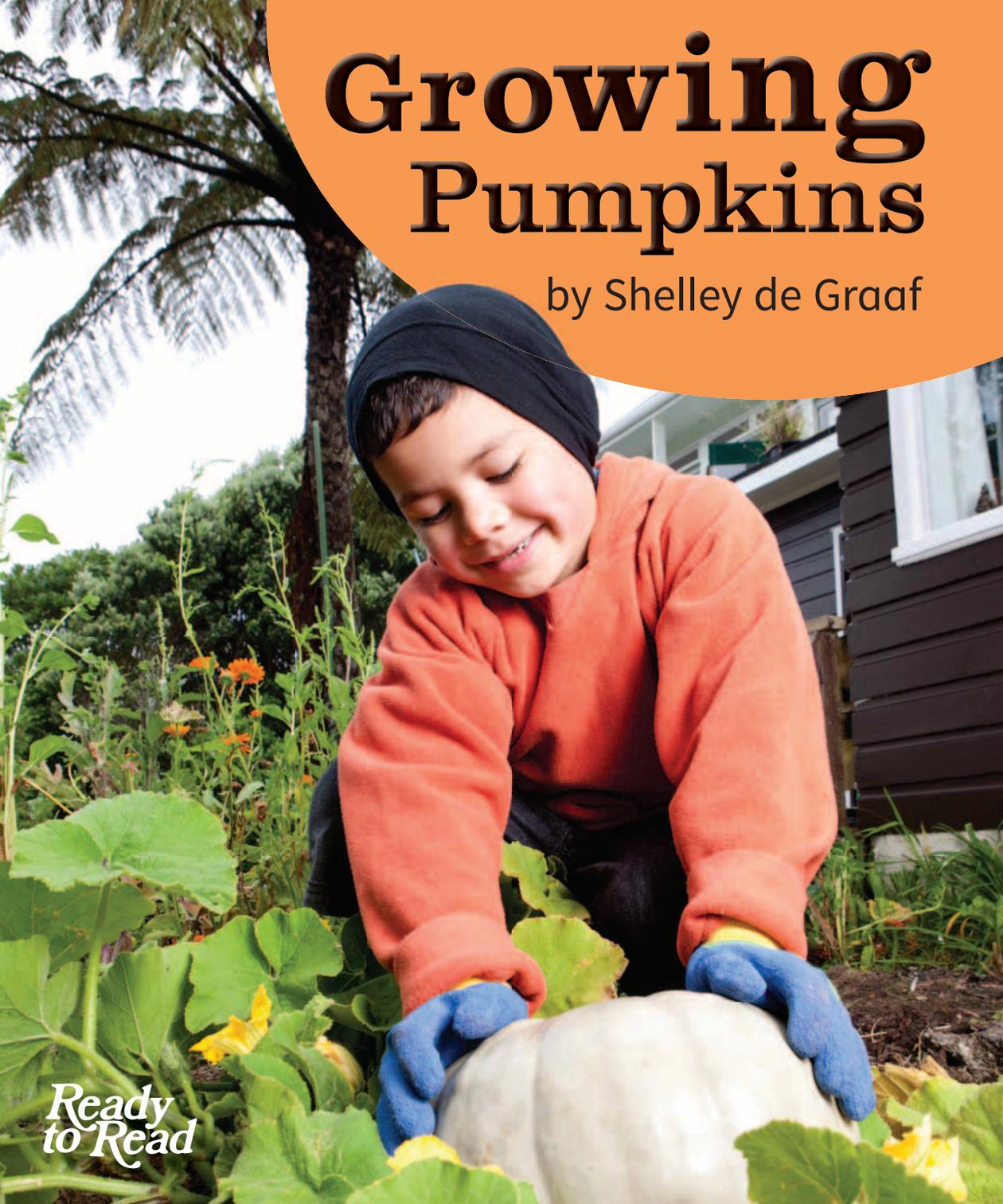


# Growing Pumpkins

by Shelley de Graaf



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to Read*

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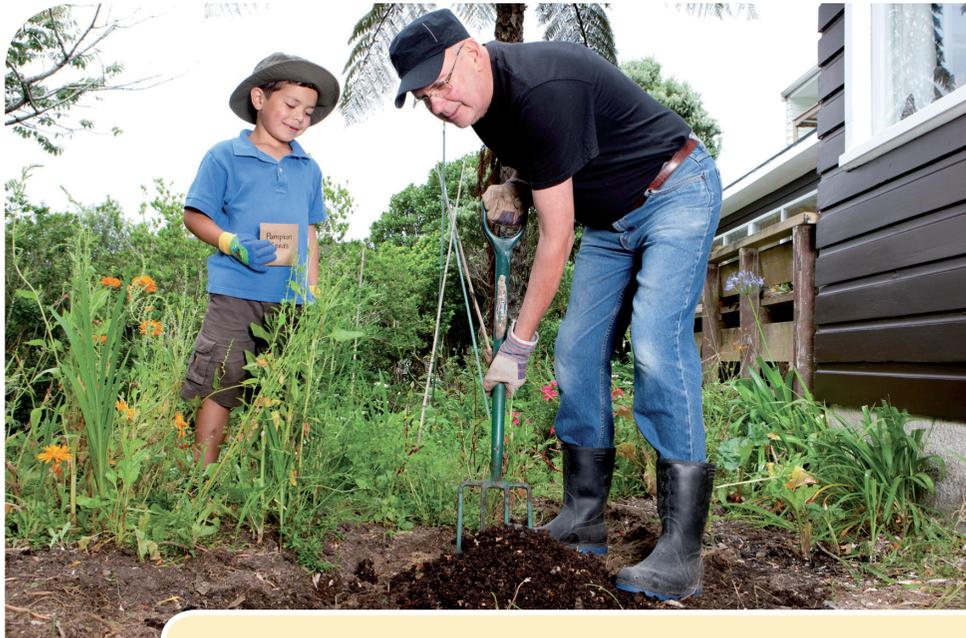
My grandad has a big garden.  
He grows vegetables.  
He saves the seeds  
from some of his plants  
so he can grow more vegetables.

At the beginning of spring,  
Grandad got the soil ready  
by digging in **compost**.



Then I helped Grandad  
to plant some of the pumpkin seeds  
he had saved.

Ten days later, tiny green shoots  
came up from the soil.  
Grandad and I watered the plants often.

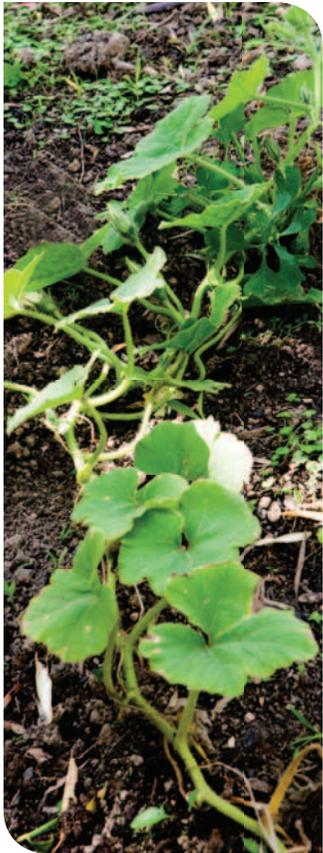


Compost is a mix of rotted food scraps and leaves.  
Gardeners like to dig compost into the soil  
because it is full of good things that help plants to grow.





All through spring and summer, the pumpkin plants grew bigger. They spread out all over the garden. Then yellow flowers appeared. Lots of bees flew in and out of the pumpkin flowers.



When bees crawl inside the pumpkin flowers, they get covered with yellow powder called **pollen**. They carry this pollen into other pumpkin flowers. This needs to happen before pumpkins will grow.

Small green bumps started to grow at the bottom of the flowers.

As the bumps grew, the flowers dried up.

The bumps grew bigger and bigger. They started to look like pumpkins.



In autumn, the pumpkins were ready to pick.

I chose the biggest pumpkin.

Grandad put the other pumpkins away to use over the winter.

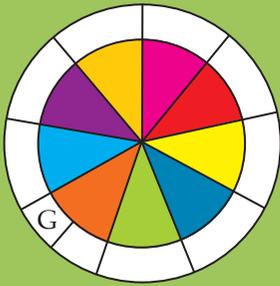


Grandad cut up my pumpkin  
to make some pumpkin soup.

In the middle of the pumpkin were lots of seeds  
for Grandad to plant when spring comes.

Next autumn, we will have lots more pumpkins,  
and we can make more pumpkin soup!





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