A Garden for Iggy

Written by Ava Goldman Illustrated by Kelly Finan

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Pia was so excited! She rushed home to find her little brother, José.

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"Guess what I saw today when I got off the bus? A giant lizard! The bus driver said it was an iguana. I think I'll name him Iggy, just like your nickname is Pepe (PEH-peh). Tomorrow I'm going to ask the bus driver to tell me more about iguanas," said Pia. Today was the day Pepe was going with Pia to look for Iggy the iguana. Pepe looked out the window as he waited for Pia to come home from school. Tick, tock, tick, tock, slowly sounded the clock. Tick, tock, tick, tock.





Bravo! She was finally home! "Hola, Pia. Let's go! I'm ready to look for Iggy! We need to bring some food for him to eat.

What do iguanas eat?" asked Pepe. "Grass? Bugs? Pizza?"



"The bus driver told me iguanas eat plants, fruits and vegetables. Let's pick some leaves and a mango from our mango tree," said Pia.

Pia and Pepe walked until they came to the bush with pink flowers where Pia saw Iggy yesterday. At first they couldn't see him. But then they saw something moving in the bushes nearby. "Mira! Mira! Look, there he is," said Pepe when he saw the iguana for the first time.





Iggy was green all over with a row of pointy spikes from his head to his back. His tail was very long. "He's kind of scary looking!" Pepe shouted.

"We brought leaves and a mango from our garden for you," Pepe told Iggy.

"We'll see if there's anything else in our garden you might like," added Pia. Back at home, Pia and Pepe looked at their garden. It was filled with plants and trees with many different flowers. All the colors of the rainbow were in the garden: yellow, pink, purple, and many shades of green. But there were no vegetables!

"The bus driver told me that iguanas love lima bean sprouts. Tomorrow, let's plant some lima bean seeds in our garden for Iggy," said Pia.



The next day was a bright sunny day. It was a perfect day for planting. "Pia, what do we do first?" Pepe asked. "First, we dig holes in the dirt for the lima bean seeds," Pia replied. "Dig, diggity, dig. This is fun," Pepe giggled.





"Next, we put the seeds into the holes and cover them with dirt," said Pia. "Pat, pat, pat. Almost done. Is this all we need?" asked Pepe. "Sí. All we need are seeds, dirt, water and lots of sunlight," Pia answered. "I brought a watering can. We can take turns sprinkling the new seeds with water." A few days later, tiny green sprouts appeared. "Wow!" shouted Pepe. "Let's take some to Iggy right now!"

"Wait until he tastes these fresh new sprouts," said Pia, as they went off to look for Iggy.