

# Anna

and the

# Flower Garden



Once upon a time  
there was a great  
king who lived in  
a beautiful castle  
surrounded by  
small villages.





The king loved his people, and his people loved him. The king would often visit the villages to talk with his people and see how they were doing.



In one of the villages  
lived a red-haired  
girl named Anna.  
She wore a pretty  
dress and colorful  
ribbons in her hair.



Anna was old enough to go to school, but she would often try to get out of going to school. If she could, she would play outside in the meadow while the other children attended school.



One day the king came to the village where Anna lived. He had an announcement to make to the children. The king wanted to know how the children were doing in their studies, so he asked them to take turns reading the announcement.



Each child read a part of the king's message. Some of the children read well. Others found some of the big words difficult to read, and the king would help them.





When it was Anna's turn, she was unable to read half of the words, but the king helped her.

The announcement was an invitation for the children to attend a party in the castle garden.



The party was a lovely and fun occasion. There were exciting games to play, many delicious cakes, and tasty juice to enjoy.

At the end of the party the king gave each child a gift.



Anna received a decorated box with a little bag inside that contained seeds. Anna was surprised by this gift, and wondered if maybe it was a mistake. Then one of her friends helped her read the letter that came with the gift.



*Dear Anna,*

*This is a gift for you.  
Plant these seeds in your  
garden. With tender care  
and patience the seeds  
will grow, and you will  
have a lovely garden. I  
will visit you and see how  
your garden is doing.*

*Yours faithfully,  
The King*



The next day Anna sat by the river looking at her gift. She wondered why she had gotten seeds when she had never planted a garden before.

Suddenly a lovely little angel appeared and explained to Anna what the king hoped Anna would learn from his gift.





“Learning anything new—like reading, writing, and arithmetic—takes time, diligence, and patience. Planting and caring for a garden is similar, and it will take time before you see results. But if you work patiently and diligently, in time you will have a beautiful garden, full of lovely flowers.”



Then, as suddenly  
as the little angel  
appeared, she was  
gone. Anna decided  
she would make a  
garden and plant  
these seeds as the  
king had instructed.



Every day, Anna watered her plants. It took some time before the plants began to grow, but eventually small, green shoots were peeking through the ground. The plants grew a little more each day until there were leaves, and finally little flower buds.



Anna was happy that her garden was growing so well. She remembered the little angel had told her that when she planted the seeds it would take time for them to grow, much like learning to read, write, and count took diligence and time.



Anna decided she wanted to do better in school, so she began to pay attention to her studies. After school, Anna would sit in her garden, surrounded by lovely, colorful flowers. She would often read aloud to the flowers.





One day the king came to visit Anna in her garden.

"What a lovely garden you have, Anna!" said the king.

"Thank you, Your Majesty," Anna said respectfully.

"I heard that you are also reaing better and doing well in school," the king added.

Anna nodded happily.



“Anna, you have done very well with your garden,” the king said. “Would you like to help take care of the queen’s garden? The castle gardener will be able to teach you many things, and he has new seeds that you can plant in your garden.”

Anna was pleased and agreed.



“My gardener will pick you up each Tuesday and Thursday to help in the queen’s garden.” And with a smile the king added, “Once you’ve finished your homework, of course,”

The king told Anna how proud he was that she had been willing to learn something new.

Written and illustrated by Didier Martin.  
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