

THE MUSEUM'S FLOWER GARDEN



The gardeners were given a very special assignment that year. They were to transform the parking lot in front of the Art Museum into a garden. This way, people who came to visit the museum could sit and rest.

It took some time to remove the stones from the parking lot but the two gardeners easily finished this task together. Now it was time to decide what flower they were going to plant.



There was a plant nursery near the museum where they had four kinds of flower seedlings.

The nursery staff had sent a large amount of each sort, but the area wasn't large enough to plant them all. So the gardeners started talking among themselves.

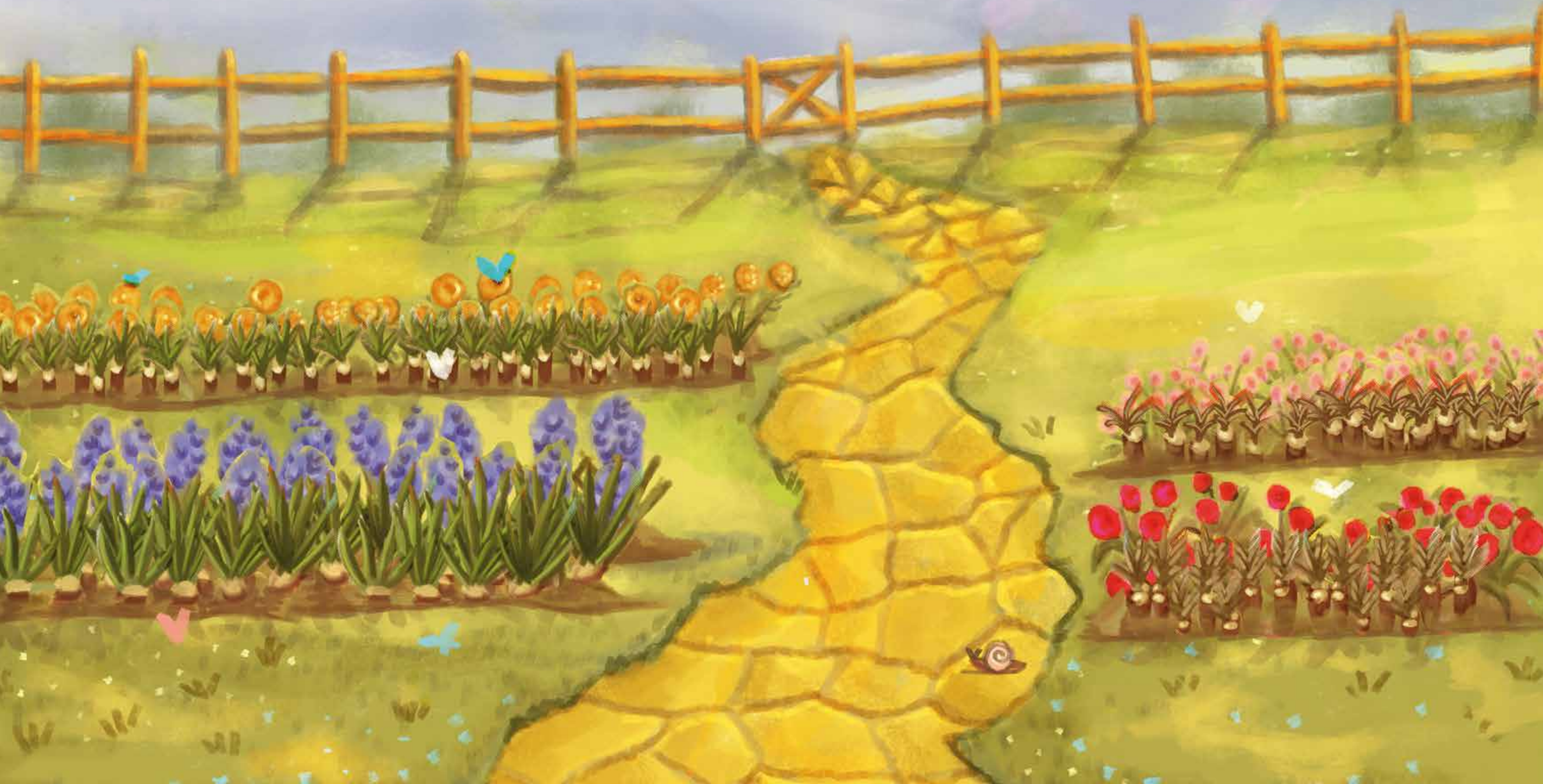
"I say we plant the hyacinths."

"Carnations would also look really nice in this garden."

"Well, how about marigolds?"

"Pink sweet Williams would be very nice too, don't you think?"

They just couldn't decide which flowers to plant.



"It's best to ask the children who will come visit the museum tomorrow," said one of the gardeners. That week, students from two of the schools in the city would come to visit the museum. They could organise a vote to get all children's opinions. The museum director also liked this idea very much. It would be nice for visitors to participate in decisions about the museum.

But maybe not everyone knew what these flowers were. So, they decided to prepare posters that would give information about the flowers. The children could take the seedling of the flower they preferred and place it under its poster. The gardeners would plant whichever flower had the most seedlings. All the posters were ready by the end of the day.





My name is hyacinth.

I have smooth edged, thin and long leaves.

I bloom to announce the coming of Spring to everyone.

I come in blue, white and pink colours, but purple would suit this garden best.

Please place one of my seedlings here if you would like to see a hyacinth garden in front of the museum.



My name is carnation.
I have delicate, velvety petals.
I give out a really nice fragrance.
My red colour would look really nice in this garden.
Please place one of my seedlings here if you would
like to see a carnation garden in front of the
museum.



My name is marigold.

I grow fast and I can grow anywhere.

I protect gardens from insects.

If you trim my wilted flowers, I will bloom even more.

Please place one of my seedlings here if you would like to see a marigold garden in front of the museum.



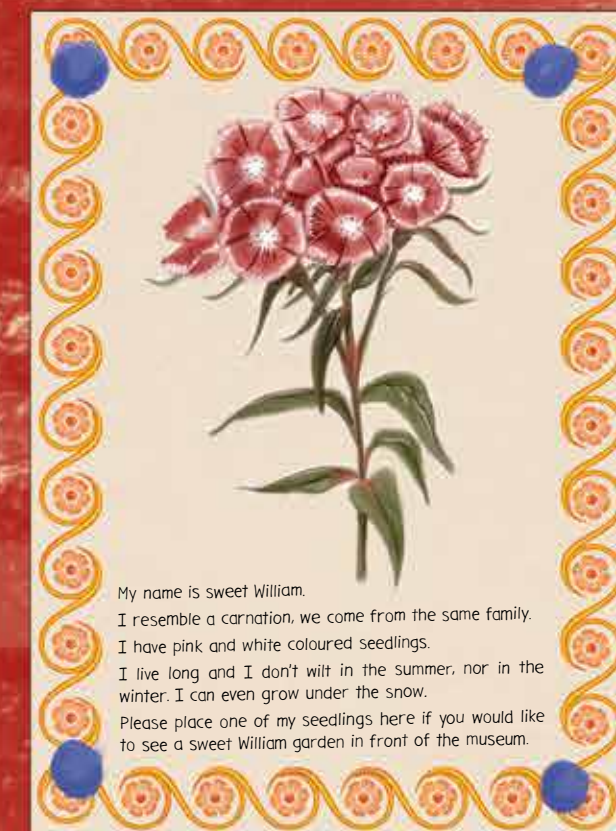
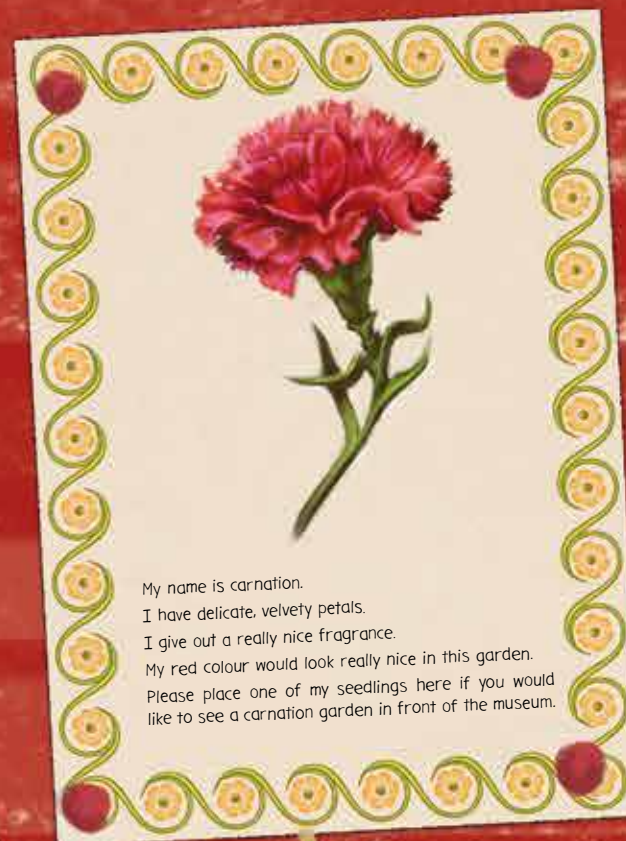
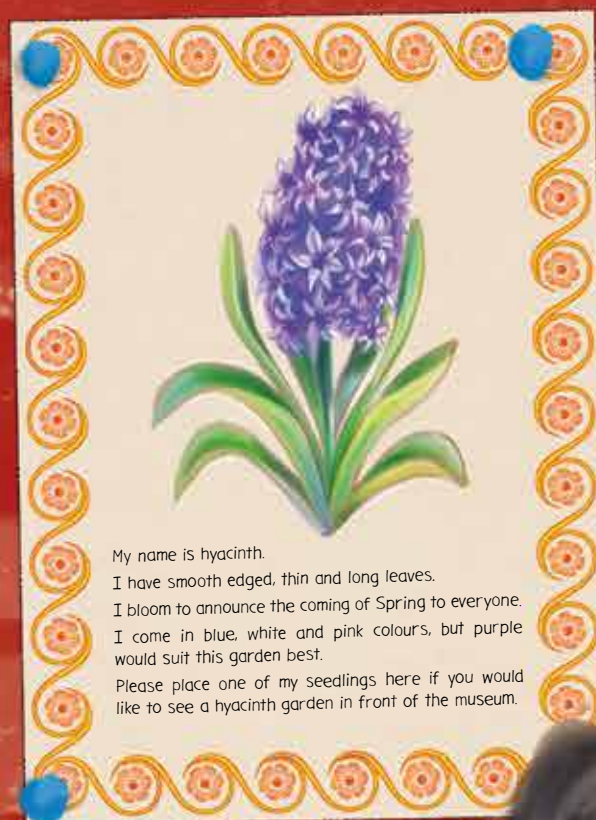
My name is sweet William.
I resemble a carnation, we come from the same family.
I have pink and white coloured seedlings.
I live long and I don't wilt in the summer, nor in the winter. I can even grow under the snow.
Please place one of my seedlings here if you would like to see a sweet William garden in front of the museum.

The next day, it was time for the first visit. The two gardeners hung the posters at the entrance of the museum as well.

The children read every word written on the posters. Deciding which flower to plant in the garden was a serious matter.

They thought long and hard. The flowers all had different characteristics. Some of their characteristics were similar to each other.

After they read the posters and thought it through, they left a seedling for the flower they chose.



It took all day to decide which flower would be planted. Once the voting was complete, the two gardeners started counting the flower seedlings. And guess what they noticed?

They were all equal in number. The gardeners didn't know what to do.



"Let's plant the carnation first."

"No, we can't. What will we do if there's no place left for the other flowers? They were also chosen."

"Ok so let's plant one of each."

"What will we do with so many seedlings then? They have to get in contact with the soil without waiting too long in the bags."

The two gardeners were discussing the matter, but they couldn't decide.



The museum director noticed that the gardeners couldn't come to a decision, so he asked the children for help.

Together with the gardeners, the children planted equal numbers of the seedlings in the garden. The rest of the seedlings were planted in the small garden in the back.



Days passed by. It had rained on the garden's soil and the rainwater had fed the seedlings. It was a bright and sunny summer day and all the plants were in blossom. The museum's garden was full of bright colours. The flowers all together had created a lovely celebration of colours.

