

HOW
YOU
SEE IT

a draw-your-own-version story book

the sweetest garden

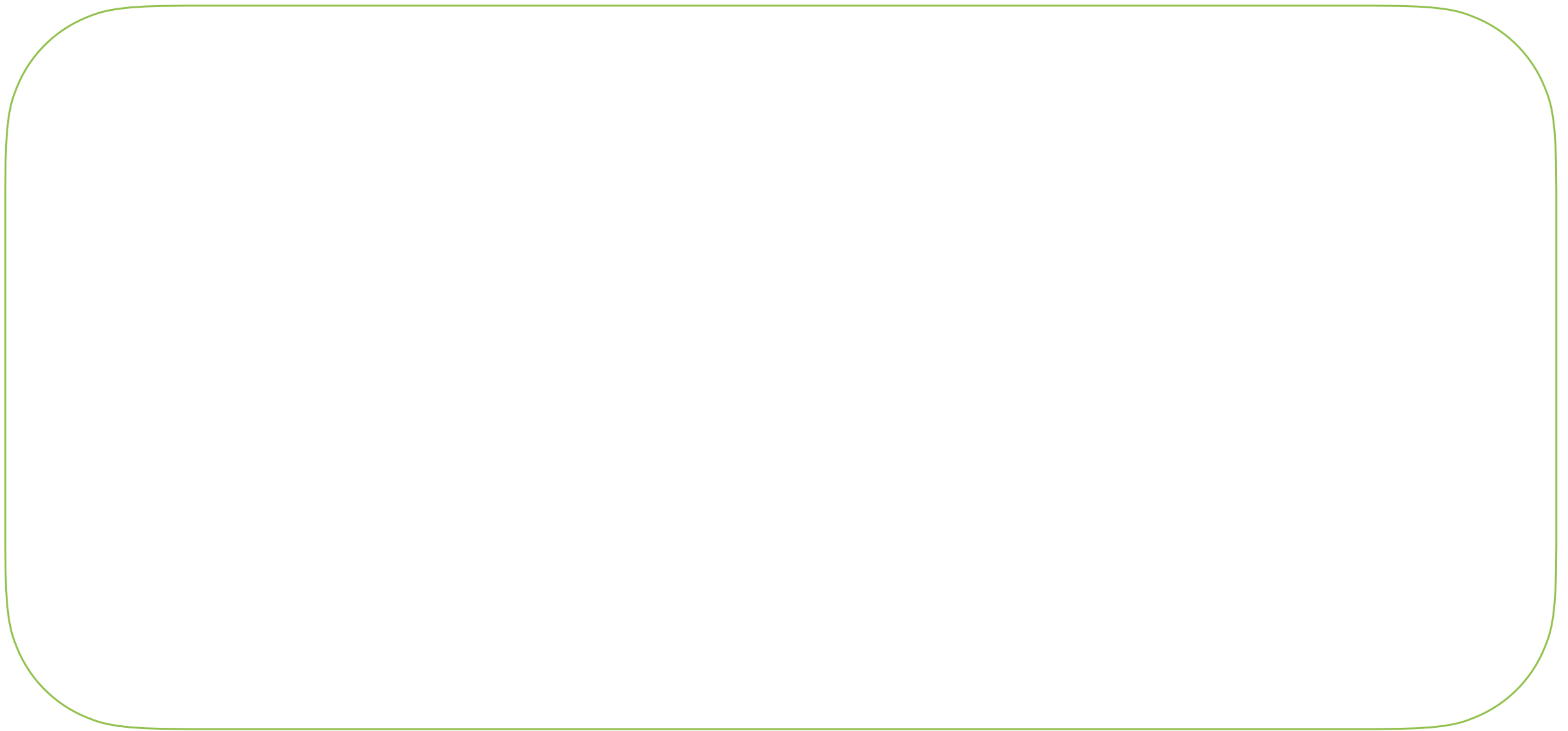
by kb saine

based on a true story by Roddy Barnes

HOW TO ENJOY A “HOW YOU SEE IT” DRAW-YOUR-OWN-VERSION STORY BOOK:

1. read the whole book to enjoy the story.
2. talk to a friend or relative about the story. what things did you like best? what part do you remember most vividly?
3. re-read the whole book. think about the characters and locations. how do they look? which of their features are most important?
4. use the boxes & the prompts to draw your own pictures about how the story should look.
5. re-read and enjoy... as many times as you want!





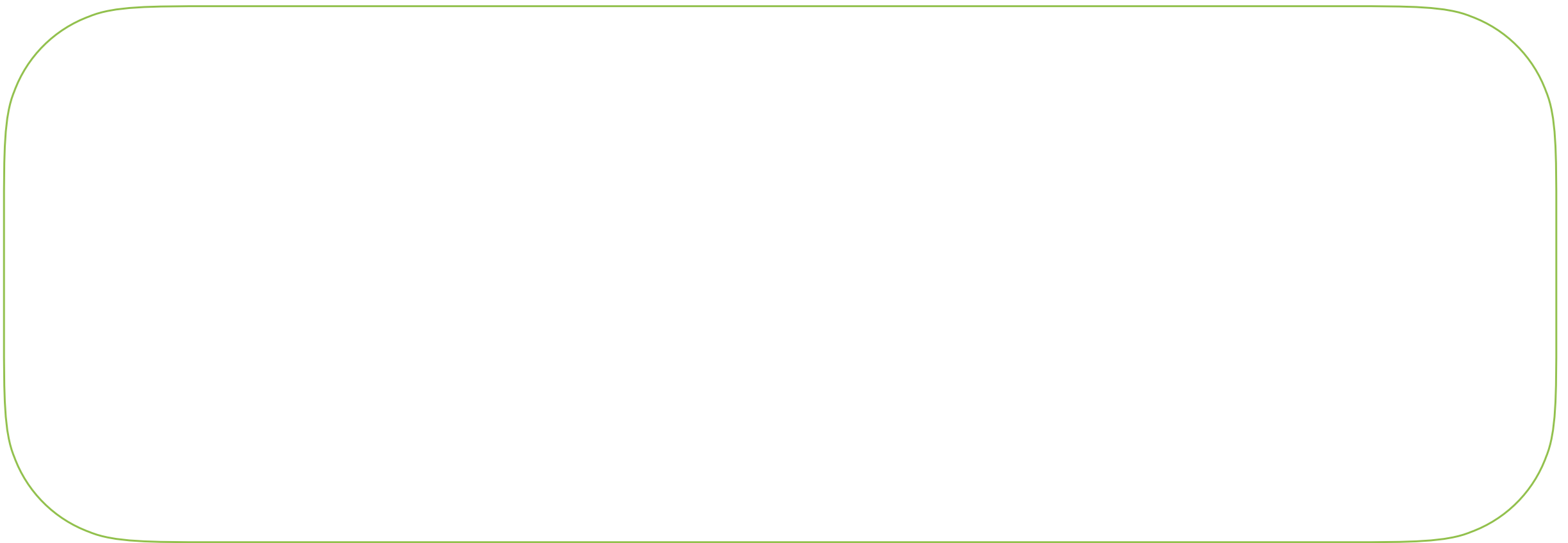
(picture: car on the road)

carmen could barely control their excitement. they were on their way to spend the whole summer with their mawmaw & pap-pap!

mawmaw & pap-pap lived next to a little river on a big farm. the farm was far away from the center of town, where carmen lived.

carmen loved spending summers at the farm. they liked to help mawmaw & pap-pap feed the animals, & they loved working in the garden.

it was hard work to till the soil & pull the weeds, but pap-pap said the extra work made the fruits & vegetables taste sweeter than the ones bought from the store, and carmen agreed.



(picture: animals or a garden)

when the car pulled up in the big circle driveway, mawmaw & pap-pap were waiting in front of the big house to greet them with big hugs & big smiles.

at dinner that evening, carmen got a surprise!

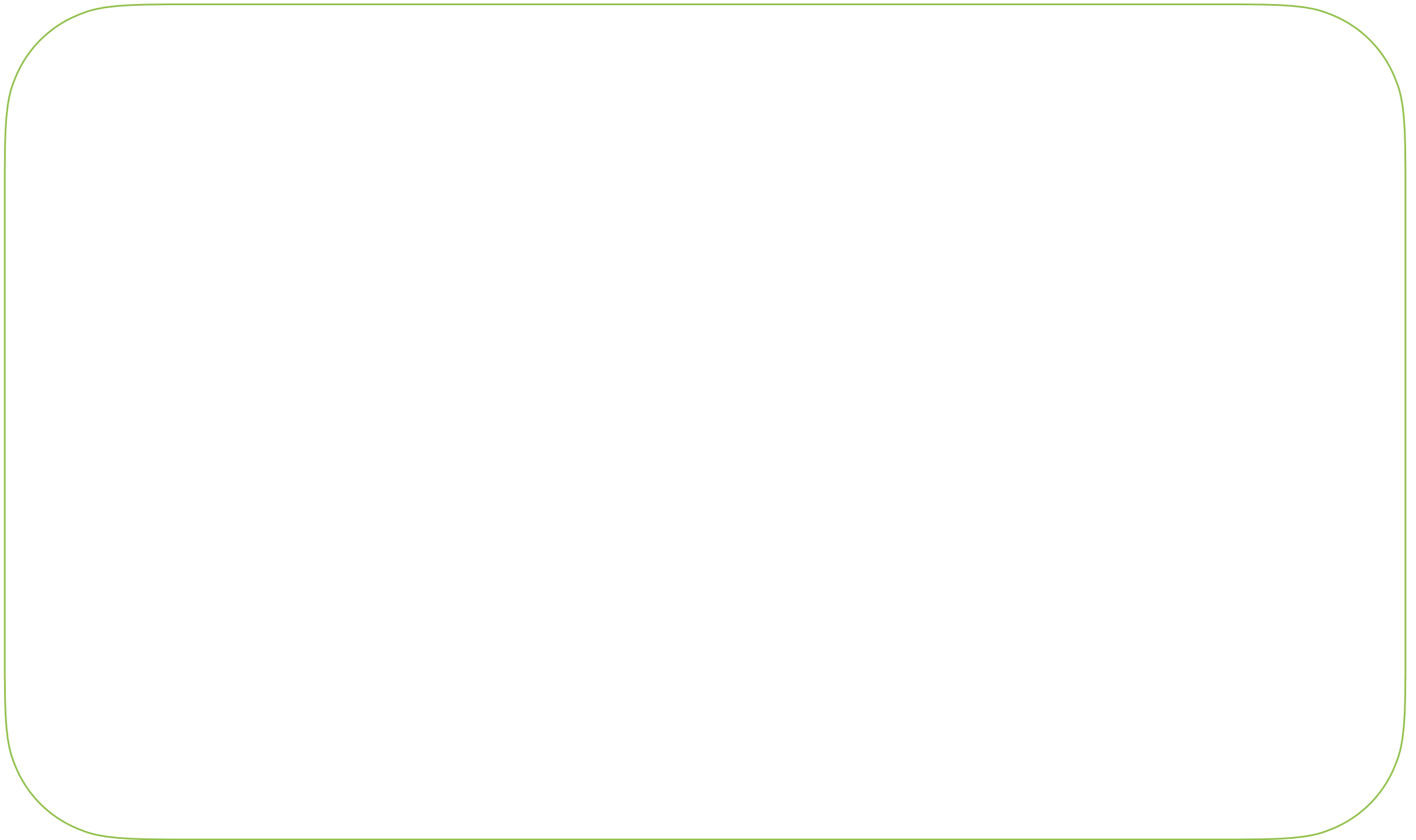
“now that you’re turning 8,” mawmaw said, “we’ve tilled a special part of the garden for you.”

“that’s right,” pap-pap agreed. “this year, you can grow your very own garden.”

carmen was so excited to have their very own garden!

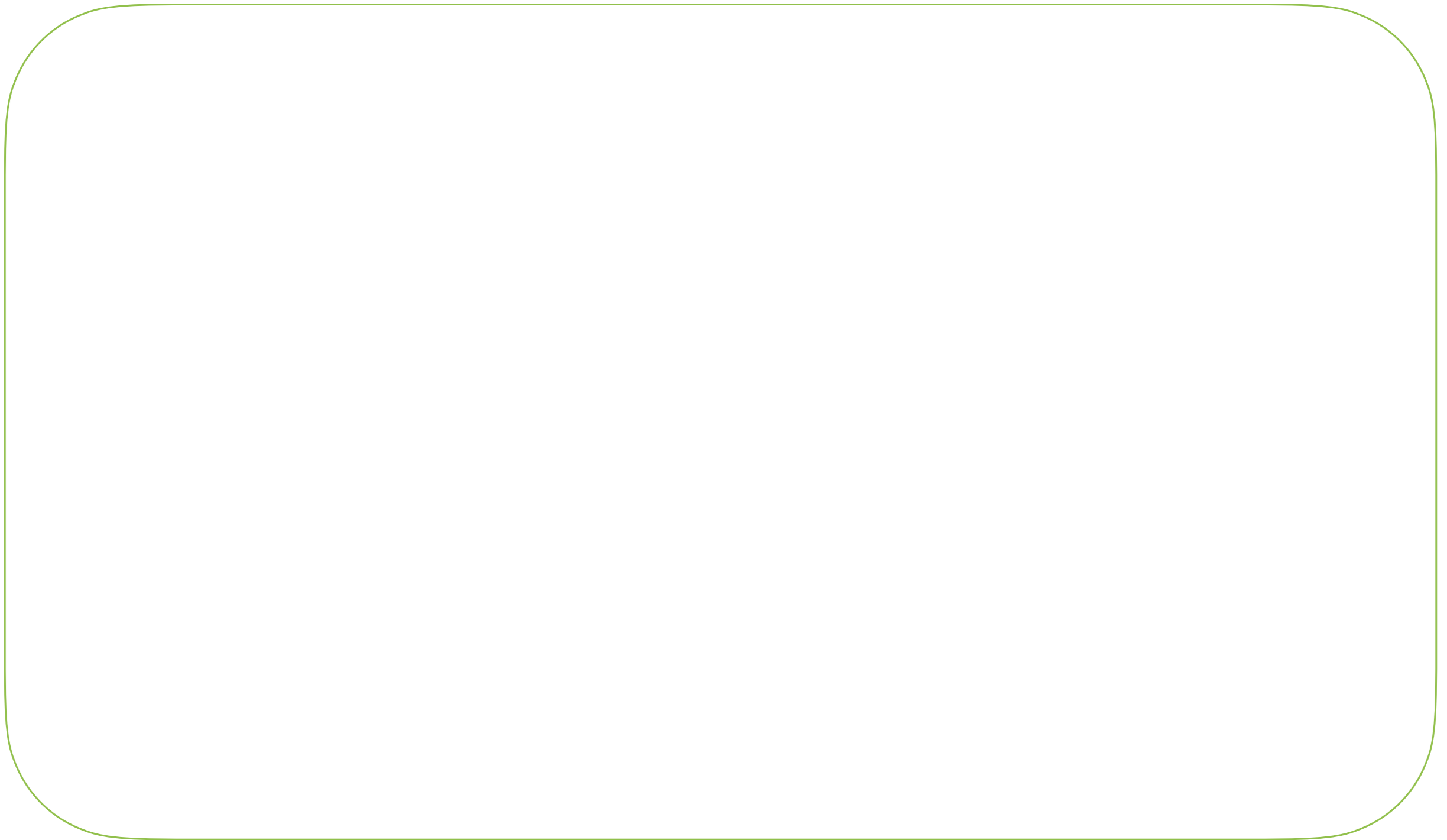
“woo hoo!” carmen shouted. “can i see it? where is it? how big? can i plant whatever seeds i want?” they asked.

“we’ll take you out to see it first thing in the morning,” mawmaw said.



(picture: carmen dreaming about vegetables)

that night, carmen was so excited. they could barely sleep, because they kept thinking all about their very own garden.



(picture: a small & perfect garden plot)

the next day, carmen got to see their garden plot! it was small & perfect, in a sunny spot right next to the river. carmen knew just what to plant, & where.



(picture: carmen's plan for their garden)

the next day, carmen got to see their garden plot! it was small & perfect, in a sunny spot right next to the river. carmen knew just what to plant, & where.

back in the house, mawmaw gave carmen a piece of graph paper.

"a garden takes planning. this is for drawing out where you will plant all of your vegetables."

carmen sat right down & drew their dream garden on the graph paper.

the next day, carmen and pap-pap went to the farm supply store.

carmen knew just what to get.

they picked out corn seeds.

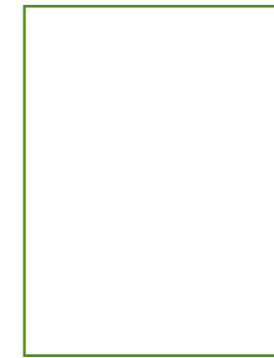
& lettuce seeds.

they chose little tomato plants.

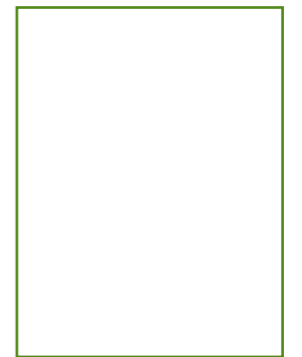
& little pepper plants.

& little squash plants.

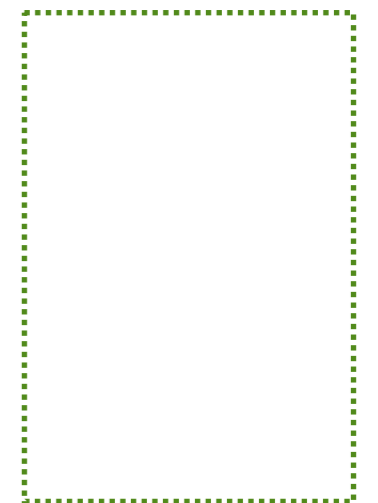
they also picked out sunflower seeds, because they loved sunflowers.



(seed packet)



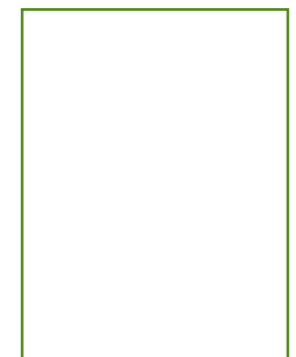
(seed packet)



(vegetable plant)



(vegetable plant)



(seed packet)

when they got home, pap-pap handed carmen a hand rake and a trowel to loosen the soil & to dig holes for the plants & seeds.

“caring for a garden takes a lot of work,” pap-pap told them. “it’s easier if you’ve got the right tools.”



(picture: gardening tools)

carmen went right to their garden with their seeds & seedlings & tools, & got to work. they spent all morning & all afternoon making sure each seed and every plant was planted just right.



(picture: a big pitcher of lemonade)

when they were finally finished, carmen looked at their garden. it was perfect. carmen was so proud.

mawmaw came out with fresh lemonade to congratulate carmen on planting their very own garden.

mawmaw stopped & stared when she saw carmen's garden.

"honey," she said, "tell me about your garden."

"well," carmen told her, "i planned it all out. i planted these seeds here in the shape of a 'C' for corn."

"& i planted the lettuce seeds here in the shape of a 'L' for lettuce."

"& i planted the tomato plants here in the shape of a 'T' for tomatoes."

"& i planted the pepper plants here in the shape of a 'P' for pepper."

"& i planted the squash plants here in the shape of a 'S' for squash."

"& i planted all of the sunflower seeds right over here in the shape of a 'S' for sunflower!"

"isn't it wonderful?" carmen asked. mawmaw just stared.



(picture: carmen's garden!)

"carmen!" mawmaw exclaimed, "that's not how a garden is supposed to grow. you're going to have a devil of a time trying to weed a garden that's not in straight lines!"

"your vegetables might not grow up right if they're like this," she explained, "they might not get the water and vitamins they need from the ground to grow up as sweet as you hope. i'd redo this whole thing, if i were you!"

pap-pap came over to see what all the fuss was about.

mawmaw said, "carmen, tell your pap-pap about this garden you have!"

"well," carmen told him, "i planned it all out. i planted these seeds here in the shape of a 'C' for corn."

"& i planted these seeds here in the shape of a 'L' for lettuce."

"& i planted these plants here in the shape of a 'T' for tomatoes."

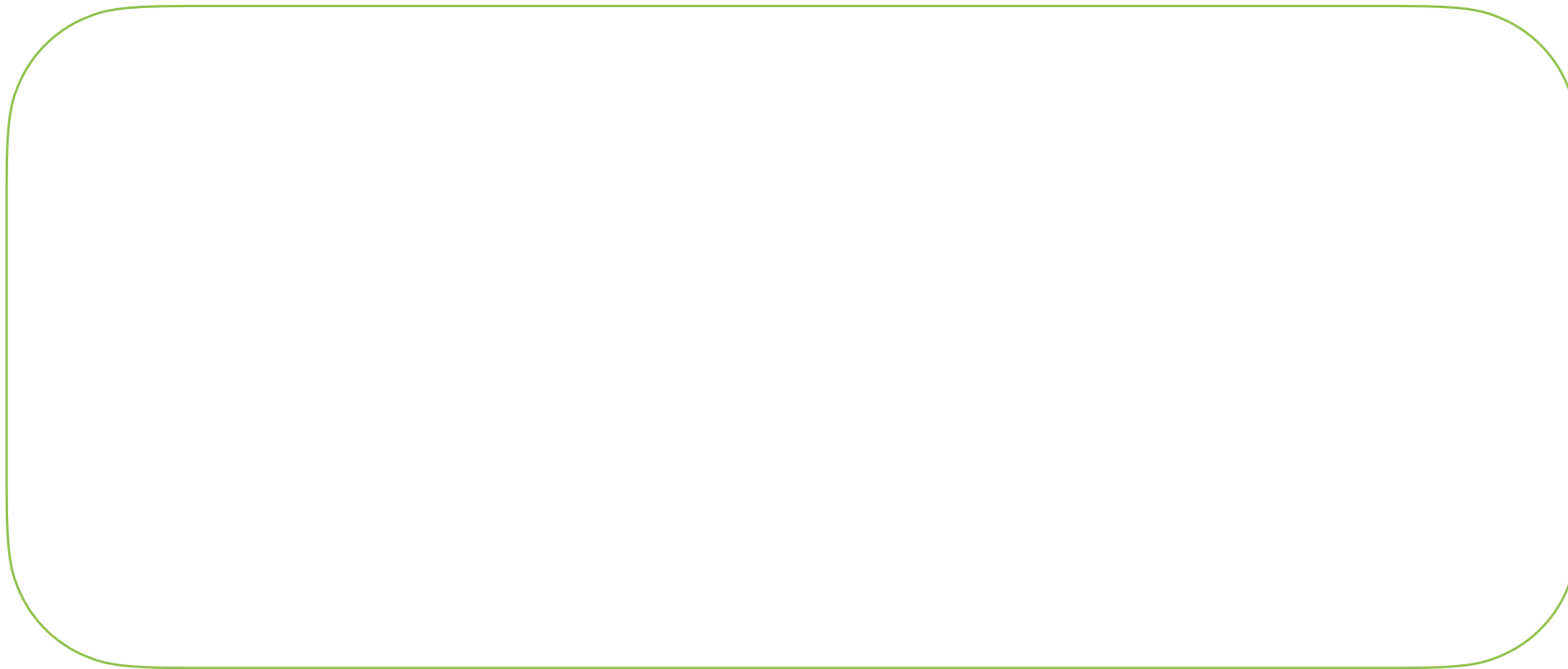
"& i planted these plants here in the shape of a 'P' for pepper."

"& i planted these plants here in the shape of a 'S' for squash."

"& i planted all of the Sunflower seeds right over here in the shape of a 'S' for sunflower!"

"isn't it wonderful?" carmen asked. pap-pap just stared.

"what do you think, pap-pap?" carmen asked.



*(picture: carmen
& pap-pap & the
garden)*

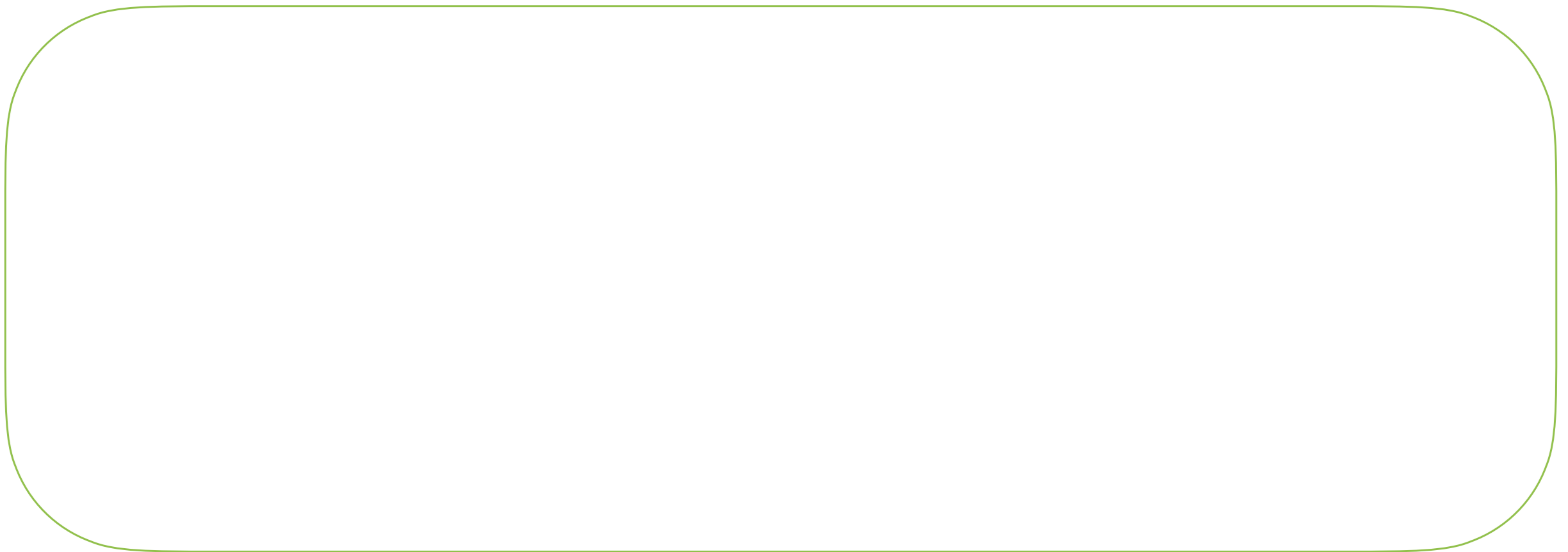
"it sure is different," pap-pap said, "but this soil is good & you've given your seedlings enough room to grow. your garden's gonna take a bit more work, carmen, but if you take extra care, your vegetables will still grow up big & strong. & i bet they'll taste just as sweet as any other crop on this farm."

carmen gave pawpaw a big hug. together, they looked at their garden.

"they'll taste just as sweet?" carmen asked. "you really think so?"

"...maybe even sweeter." pap-pap said with a smile.

for the next few weeks, carmen spent every morning in their garden, weeding around the plants & making special supports for the peppers & tomatoes for when they got big enough to need them.



(picture: carmen's garden full of little plants)

carmen's garden was looking great! their corn & lettuce seeds sprouted into little plants. their little tomato, pepper plants & squash plants began to flower. & the sunflower seeds grew into little flowers!



(picture: carmen's garden full of full-grown plants)

carmen was surprised by how much work it was to tend to a garden! but every day, they checked in on their garden, and watched as little vegetables began to grow. carmen was very patient & waited a long time for their vegetables to grow big & strong.

finally, it was time for carmen to harvest some of the vegetables! pap-pap showed carmen how to use pruners to carefully cut the ripened tomatoes and peppers from the vines.

carmen harvested four tomatoes and six peppers!

"well done, carmen," pap-pap said. "you did it! are you ready to taste your first veggies?"

"yes, sir!" carmen replied. "can we taste the tomatoes first?"

"of course." pap-pap told them. "would you like to taste the first bite?"

"well, we have four tomatoes, so let's each taste one at the same time," carmen suggested. "on the count of three."

"okay." pap-pap replied.

"one... two... THREE!"



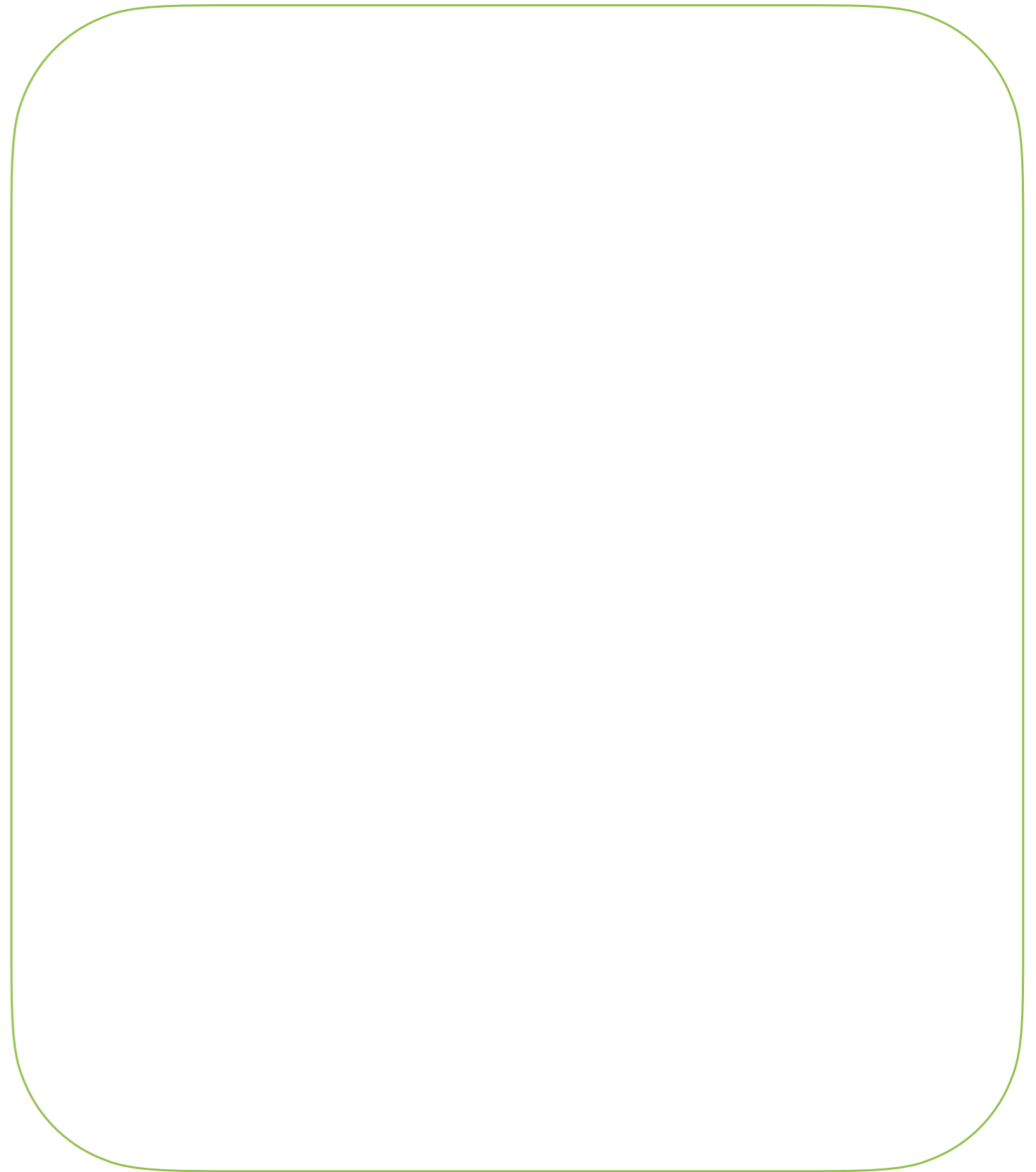
(picture: happy carmen & pap-pap, eating tomatoes)

they each took a big bite of their tomatoes. & they were delicious!

“these are excellent, carmen!” pap-pap said, “all of your extra work & special care really paid off. i daresay your tomatoes are just as sweet as any i’ve ever had!”

carmen agreed. the tomatoes were every bit as sweet as they hoped they would be.

...maybe even sweeter.



(draw the final picture of the story!)
