

SALSA GARDEN

David saw the sign his father put on the garden fence. It said Salsa Garden.

“Salsa?” David read aloud. “Can you grow salsa?”

Dad replied, “Just watch and see what comes up.”

Each time David helped by watering and pulling weeds, he looked at the green plants. They all looked different. Not one looked like salsa.

Finally, harvest time came. First, Dad dug in the ground and pulled out round white things that looked a lot like onions. Then, he pulled off pods hanging from a plant. They looked a lot like hot peppers. Next, he cut a green leafy plant that smelled spicy. Finally, Dad pulled round, red balls from a fat vine. They sure looked a lot like tomatoes.

“Where’s the salsa, Dad?” David asked as he followed his father to the kitchen.

Dad washed and cut everything up. He dumped his harvest into a machine with a sharp blade and turned it on. When he opened the lid, it was full of salsa! •

Strategy Make a prediction here. What do you think this story will be about? Why would an author write a story with this title? Maybe it will tell about making salsa.

Skill Now we can determine the author’s purpose. What do you think? Perhaps he wanted to inform us that good salsa needs good garden-grown vegetables.