

Winnie's Watermelon

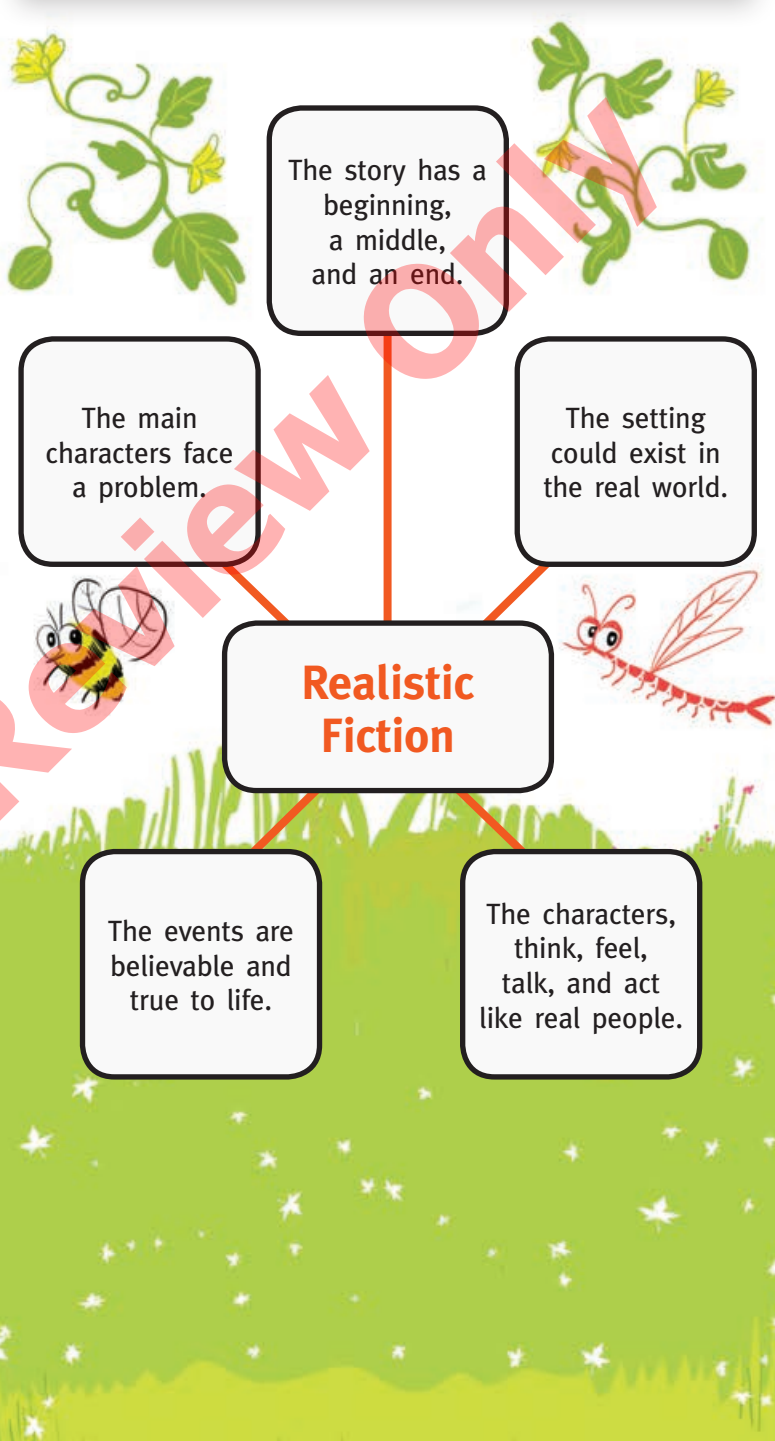
by Alysa Wishingrad • illustrated by Eva Byrne



Level	K/20
Lexile®	550L

Realistic Fiction

Look for the genre features noted below as you read this book. Use the features to help you understand the text.



© Benchmark Education Company, LLC. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, or any information storage or retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher. Printed in Guangzhou, China. xxx-xx-xxxx

LEXILE® is a trademark of MetaMetrics, Inc., and is registered in the United States and abroad. E-books and additional digital resources available at benchmarkuniverse.com.

ISBN: 978-1-5322-8037-5

Toll-Free 1-877-236-2465
www.benchmarkeducation.com
www.benchmarkuniverse.com

BENCHMARK EDUCATION COMPANY
145 Huguenot Street • New Rochelle, NY • 10801

May

The big day was finally here!

Uncle Dan came over to teach Winnie the family secret for growing giant watermelons.

The Williams family's watermelons always won the blue ribbon at the Georgia State Fair. Now that Winnie was ten, it was finally her turn to grow one. It was time for her to win the ribbon.





Uncle Dan set a large box down on the kitchen table.

“Is there a watermelon in there?” Winnie asked with a wink.

Uncle Dan laughed. “Not quite. But I brought all the ingredients you need to grow one.”

He pulled a small bag out of the box. “First, you need this.” He placed a flat, black seed in Winnie’s palm. “One day this tiny seed will be a giant watermelon.”

Then Uncle Dan pulled a watering can out of the box. “To grow, the seed needs water.”

“It also needs sun and air, but I don’t think you have those in the box,” Winnie said, giggling.

“True,” Uncle Dan said with a smile. “But I do have plant food. This is the Williams family secret mix. It has all the nutrients your seed needs to grow strong, healthy roots. Now let’s go plant your seed.”





Winnie chose a sunny spot in the garden to dig a hole. She added a handful of the secret mix to the soil and then carefully placed the seed inside. She covered it with a small mound of soil.

Uncle Dan reminded her to water the soil often.

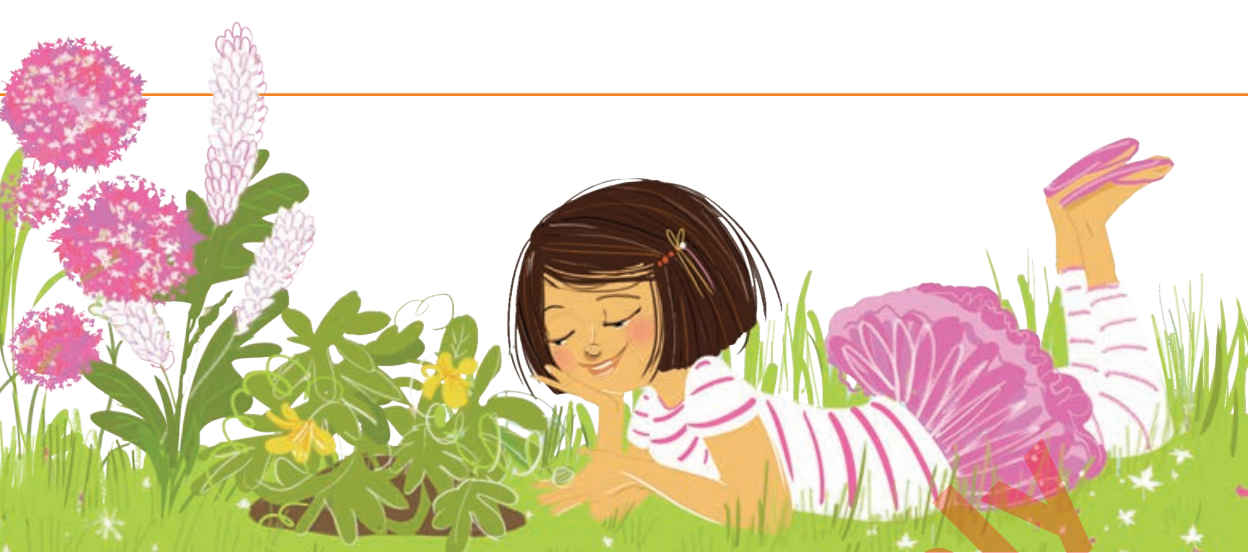
June

In early June, a small shoot came through the soil. It was light green and had two tender leaves.

Two weeks later, Winnie's plant had a long vine and four large leaves. Uncle Dan told her to add more of the family's secret soil mix to help it continue to grow.

Winnie was amazed. The seed she had planted in May was now a growing plant.





Winnie watered her plant whenever the soil got dry.

One day at the end of June, she woke up to find two beautiful flowers growing on the vines.

“Now the bees will help pollinate your plant,” Uncle Dan explained. “And the fruit will begin to grow. It will be only a few days, now.”

Uncle Dan was right! Within the week, Winnie found a tiny, green ball growing under one of the flowers. The flowers died, but the green ball kept growing.

On a rainy day, Winnie's friends Angela and Billy came over. Angela and Billy were also growing fruits and vegetables for the fair. The friends decided to make their signs together. The best sign at the fair would also win a prize.

"My cabbage is already bigger than my head," Billy said proudly.



“My squash won’t be winning any prizes,” Angela said, sighing. “I forgot to water it for a whole week. It’s not looking too good.”

“You still have time. It will grow,” Winnie said. “Uncle Dan says time and patience are also important ingredients for healthy plants.”

