



Composting With Grandpa

Sam and Grandpa are playing ball in the garden. Grandpa does a really big throw. The ball lands in the flowers.

‘Oops!’ says Grandpa. Sam goes to get the ball. She sees a strange bin.

‘Why do you have a bin your garden Grandpa?’ asks Sam.

‘That’s my compost bin,’ says Grandpa.

‘What’s compost?’ asks Sam. Grandpa takes Sam to see the bin.

‘We put food waste in the bin,’ says Grandpa. ‘The food will rot. The food will turn into compost. We can put the compost on the garden. The compost helps the plants to grow.’

R: What is Grandpa’s garden bin?

R: How does Sam find the bin? Circle your answer.

while playing hide and seek

while looking for the ball

while playing chase

Grandpa lifts the bin lid. He shows Sam the compost. The compost is very smelly. There are lots of insects crawling around. The insects make the compost look like it’s moving. There are worms in the compost too. Sam picks one up. The worm wriggles and tickles Sam’s hand. It makes her laugh.

E: Why does the compost look like its moving?



‘Why are there bugs in the bin?’ asks Sam. ‘Do bugs like compost?’

‘Yes,’ says Grandpa. ‘Insects and worms like compost. They like to eat the food. They help to turn the food into compost.’

There is a little door at the bottom of the bin. Grandpa lifts the little door. The compost here looks different. The compost at the top is lumpy and looks like bits of food. The top of the compost bin is still food waste. The compost at the bottom has been broken down. The compost at the bottom looks like soil.

‘Look what a good job the bugs have done,’ says Grandpa. ‘This compost is ready for the garden.’

I: What is the difference between the compost at the top and bottom of the bin?

Grandpa’s compost bin turned the food waste into compost. The food waste was recycled into something new.

‘Can I put something in the compost bin?’ asks Sam. ‘I want to feed the bugs.’

‘Yes,’ says Grandpa. ‘We can put in fruit and vegetable peelings. We can put in eggshells. We can put in teabags. We can put in twigs and leaves or we can put in grass cuttings. All of those things go in the compost bin.’

I: Which of the following items can go in the compost bin? Circle your answer.

teabags yoghurt pots vegetable peelings tin foil grass cuttings

Sam walks round the garden. She collects twigs and leaves in a bucket. Grandpa gives her the teabag from his mug of tea.

‘Here you go, bugs,’ Sam says as she tips the bucket into the bin. ‘Dinner time!’

Answers:

R: A compost bin.

R: While looking for the ball

E: Because there are bugs crawling in it.

I: At the top of the bin the compost is still food waste. It is lumpy and looks like food. The compost at the bottom of the bin has been broken down. It looks like soil and is ready to use.

I: Teabags, vegetable peelings and grass cuttings.