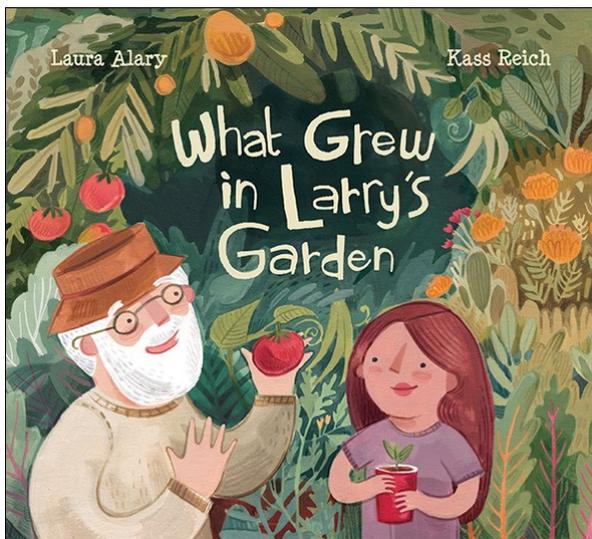


The **2021 IODE Ontario Jean Throop Book Award**
is awarded to

What Grew in Larry's Garden

Written by Laura Alary and illustrated by Kass Reich

This book is about how a girl and her neighbour grow a community from their garden.



Grace thinks Larry's garden is one of the wonders of the world. In his tiny backyard next door to hers, Larry grows the most extraordinary vegetables. Grace loves helping him do the watering and weeding, planting and pruning, hoeing and harvesting. Whenever there's a problem like bugs burrowing into the carrots or slugs chewing the lettuce, Grace and Larry solve it together. Grace soon learns that Larry has big plans for the vegetables in his special garden. When that garden faces its biggest problem yet, Grace follows Larry's example to find the perfect solution.

Inspired by a real person, author Laura Alary has written a heartwarming story about how amazing things can grow when you tend your garden with kindness. In this case Larry, a teacher, is helping to grow community. He has his students grow tomato plants that they then give away to their neighbours with personal notes. It offers a powerful lesson on the influence of generosity, while encouraging young children to become community activists in their own neighbourhoods. This uplifting story fosters an appreciation for neighbourhood and community at a time when that sentiment seems to be eroding. The book also contains an environmental message about harvesting your own vegetables and with Kass Reich's colourful illustrations, works beautifully for a life science exploration of growth and changes in plants. There are character education connections to caring, cooperation, empathy, kindness, perseverance and teamwork.

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Author Laura Alary

Laura has loved books since she was barely big enough to clamber up the steps to the bookmobile that rolled into her Halifax neighbourhood once a week.



At school, she made her own books out of manila paper, mucilage and crayons. The first story she can remember writing was about a little girl who kept spilling paint and having to figure out how to turn the messes into pictures (a good rule for life).

These days, Laura considers herself very lucky to work in a beautiful library and write her own books. They look more professional than the homemade ones, but the joy of creating them is much the same.

Laura also loves to sing, play guitar (a work in progress) and try to keep up with what her three children are reading.

She makes her home in Toronto where, along with clover and a whole lot of dandelions, she does her best to grow kindness.

Illustrator Kass Reich

Kass was born in Montreal. She works as an artist and educator and has spent a majority of the last decade traveling and living abroad. After graduating with a degree in Art Education from Concordia University, she picked up and moved to Beijing where she worked as an early childhood educator for nearly three years. Inspired by her students, she wrote and illustrated her first book which garnered much success and eventually became a four-book-series.



After Beijing, she spent time in Hong Kong, London and Melbourne. In each new city, she found work teaching art to everyone from toddlers to adults.

Kass has designed curriculum for one of Hong Kong's most respected art schools and conducted life-drawing classes in the historic South Bank district in London, England.

Today, Kass is happy to be back in Canada. She spends most days in her Toronto studio illustrating with a cup of tea in her hand and her rescue dog at her feet.

To order

What Grew in Larry's Garden

Written by Laura Alary and Illustrated by Kass Reich.

\$20 per book plus mailing

Please call the Provincial Office 905-522-9537

or

email iodeontario@gmail.com

to place your order.

Payments accepted

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