



# The Good Garden: How One Family Went from Hunger to Having Enough

*Katie Smith Milway , Sylvie Daigneault (Illustrator)*

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**The Good Garden: How One Family Went from Hunger to Having Enough** Katie Smith Milway , Sylvie Daigneault (Illustrator)

From the best-selling author of *One Hen* comes the inspiring story of one struggling farming family in Honduras and their journey to growing enough food to meet their needs. Based on the real story of farm transformation underway in Honduras and many other countries, this book offers children ways they can be part of the movement to grow "good gardens" and foster food security. Eleven-year-old Mar?a Luz and her family live on a small farm. This year their crop is poor, and they may not have enough to eat or to sell for other essentials, such as health care, school uniforms and books. When Mar?a's father must leave home to find work, she is left in charge of their garden. Then a new teacher comes to Mar?a's school and introduces her to sustainable farming practices that yield good crops. As Mar?a begins to use the same methods at home, she too sees improvements, which allow her family to edge their way out of the grip of the greedy "coyotes" -- the middlemen who make profits on the backs of poor farmers. Little by little, the farms -- and the hopes -- of Mar?a and her neighbors are transformed as good gardens begin to grow.

## The Good Garden: How One Family Went from Hunger to Having Enough Details

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Author : Katie Smith Milway , Sylvie Daigneault (Illustrator)

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# **From Reader Review The Good Garden: How One Family Went from Hunger to Having Enough for online ebook**

## **Barbara says**

Marta Luz and her family are barely getting by on their farm in Honduras. Because the soil has been overworked, the crops barely sustain them, and her father must leave to find work. A new teacher shows Marta and her classmates new ways to plant their crops, enrich the soil, and how to sell their produce directly at the market. Once her father returns home, the family garden is producing enough food to feed them all well plus allow the family to earn extra money. Although the changes described in the book might seem small, they are life-changing, and the author notes that three-fourths of the poor farmers around the world do not produce enough to feed their families and have the necessities of life. The text and colored pencil on colored paper illustrations provide an excellent introduction to sustainability and how small changes can lead to larger ones. I'd pair this one with the author's earlier title, One Hen.

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## **Edward Sullivan says**

From the author of One Hen: How One Small Loan Made a Big Difference, this book tells the story how a poor farming family who live in the hills of Honduras and learns how to grow enough food that will sustain them and provide an income. An excellent introduction to the issue of food insecurity.

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## **annie k says**

The Good Garden: How One Family Went from Hunger to Having Enough by Katie Smith Milway & Sylvie Daigneault is GORGEOUS!!! The story, although a bit sad, is written perfectly- older & younger children can follow it easily. The illustrations are lush & colorful & exquisite- my youngest enjoyed naming everything in them. This is a brilliant, heart-felt story that helps explain the food crisis much of the world is experiencing.

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## **Krista the Krazy Kataloguer says**

Yet another book that shows how one person can make a difference. Maria Luz lives in a small village in Honduras. Her family struggles to grow enough food, and have little left over to sell to the coyotes, or evil men who take advantage of the villagers by buying from them at low prices and selling to them at high prices. One day a new teacher, Don Pedro, comes to the school, and their lives are changed forever. He teaches the children about terrace farming, composting, planting marigolds to keep insects away, and what to plant for cash crops. Soon the whole village is transformed, the coyote is put out of business, and the people prosper.

The story is based on a real Honduran, Don Elias Sanchez, about whom Milway writes at the end of the

book. She also lists organizations such as Heifer International and MicroEnsure, and describes what they are doing to help fight hunger around the world. I loved this story--so inspiring! Kids in the U.S. who read this book can try some of the gardening methods described here or they can check out the web sites for other organizations and find ways to help. Great book! Highly recommended!!

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### **Jannah says**

Maria Luz Duarte brings home gardening skills learned at school to help her family raise healthy crops. Using her agricultural education, the Duarte family gradually works their way out of poverty that once threatened to take away their home in Honduras. Based on a true story.

Includes further information on Honduran teacher Don Elias Sanchez who helped educate families in farming practices and become more self-sustaining through improved crop production. Has glossary of Spanish keywords used in the story. Finally, offers information on ways to help people establish food security and organizations working to improve the lives of farmers all over the world.

Gorgeous illustrations and an inspiring story.

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### **Susie White says**

In *The Good Garden: How One Family Went from Hunger to Having Enough*, the story of a family living in the hills of Honduras is told, and how a new schoolteacher transforms their community to produce good crop yearly. The schoolteacher Don Pedro is based on the life of Don Elías Sanchez, while the Duartes are based on an actual family whom Sanchez guided. María Luz and her family, the Duartes, face the frightening fact that they may not have enough food for this winter and seeds for their next crop, forcing them to borrow seeds from the town middleman who unfairly charges them. With the arrival of Don Pedro, María Luz acquires knowledge in how to make her family's garden more successful: by creating terraces, adding compost to the soil, and placing marigolds among the crops to help ward off insects. Don Pedro's teachings transform the entire community and saves the Duartes from facing hunger and a large debt with the middleman.

The story informs the reader of the staggering truth of hunger around the globe, but also ways to aid these some 2 billion people. The format appeared to be more informational, with several paragraphs in smaller text on each page. This format could be less appealing to some young readers, but regardless the story proves to be an important one to tell. This book could be utilized in the classroom for younger students during a research project on perhaps the country of Honduras or Central America in general, or in research on poverty and agriculture.

Milway, K. S., & Daigneault, S. (2010). *The Good Garden: How One Family Went from Hunger to Having Enough*. New York: Kids Can Press.

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### **Wendy Lovatt says**

A great book of life in another country, where a bit of education and support can go a long way to changing folks lives for the better. I especially enjoyed the illustrations, and learning a few Spanish words along the way.

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### **Megan Wittenberg says**

A touching story about a family living in the hills of Honduras struggling to make ends meet due to failing crops. Maria Luz is a young girl who is her father's main helper when it comes to tending to her family crops. When her father has to leave to find work away from home, he leaves tending to the crops to her. When a new teacher comes into town, he ends up sharing some tips and tricks that Maria Luz is able to take back to her crops at home eventually leading to being able to have sustainable crops. This is a book that would be good to have in the classroom as it is one that can help teach students about a culture that may differ from their own. This book could help teach the history of this culture along with some Spanish words as they are randomly thrown in throughout the text. I like this book because it has a cute story along with an information page at the end of it that could help students learn about something they may not have necessarily known about before.

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### **Danette says**

1/15/19 Read with Simon

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### **Shai Barber says**

This book is a great way to show children how other countries have it hard in life. I really enjoyed this book and like how they used a fox as the bad guy.

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### **Harriette says**

In this book about agricultural developments, the teacher is a native Honduran who leads by example to restore fertility to a community through composting, terracing and natural ways to deter insects. Maria Luz is the child narrator who takes efforts to improve her family's plot and receives affirmation from her father and community. Based on a true story.

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### **Tasha says**

The author of One Hen: How One Small Loan Made a Big Difference continues to explore the impact of education and funding on poor communities. Here, she has written a book about a farming family in Honduras who learn techniques that allow them to grow enough food to feed themselves and earn enough money to secure a positive future for the family. Maria Luz and her family have run out of food so her father must head out of town to find enough work to pay for the seed to plant next year because they will have to consume what they would have saved. He leaves Maria Luz in charge of the garden while he is gone. At school, she learns about compost, terrace gardening, and other ways to keep the soil fertile. When her father returns, he is surprised by her success. He and Maria Luz work with her teacher to avoid selling their

produce to the local coyote and instead sell it themselves at a market and purchase seeds themselves. Through one man's efforts to educate, an entire village is transformed.

The author here has taken her subject very seriously, as is appropriate. The text is lengthy for a picture book, but helps explain the impact of food insecurity around the world. While this is not a picture book to add to a story time, it will be of value for elementary children who are learning about the world, gardening and food. It is a book that teaches and informs. Smith Milway's text does not shy away from the control of the coyote, the fear of starvation, or the loss of families who leave to live elsewhere. Her words convey it all with a seriousness and gentleness that is lovely to read.

Daigneault's illustrations seem to glow with an inner sun. Her use of colors is dynamic at times and subtle at others. In all of her pictures, there are flowing lines that help depict the beauty of the Honduran landscape. The illustrations help bring the text to life, making the book even more appealing.

An important book for children to better understand the world they live in, this book is informative and radiant. Appropriate for ages 6-9.

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### **Luisa Knight says**

Although told in story form, it's really a lesson in proper farming and how one family learns better methods to improve their living conditions. A good lesson in teaching children how other families live and work together.

Ages: 6 - 11

#geography #southamerica #honduras #farming

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### **Dolly says**

I have come to the conclusion that I will have to read most of the picture books that I find at our local libraries on my own. Our girls have grown up so quickly that they have little patience for books they consider to be 'babyish.'

So I am thrilled when I find a book that not only has gorgeous pictures, but also has the more mature content that they crave. This is a wonderful book that has a captivating story, but also provides a lesson about the difficulties people face in other parts of the world and the small steps we can take to help others and make the world a better place for all people to raise a family.

Food insecurity is a real problem, even in our own community, and it is heartwarming to see the difference that just one man, in this case Don Elias Sanchez, made in the hills of Honduras. And while the story is a

work of fiction, using made up character names, it is based on his efforts there.

I loved the story and even more so the two pages of additional information about the basis for the story as well as the organizations who are helping to combat world hunger. This book is a great part of the Citizen Kid series.

The illustrations are colored pencil on colored paper and are very nicely detailed. I loved how the *coyote*, Señor Lobo, is depicted as both man and animal.

This is an amazing story and I was thrilled to share it with our girls, especially because they were at least semi-willing to hear it. I know we all learned a bit more from this book and I hope it inspires them to find a way to create more good in our world.

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### **AGastolek says**

This is a story of a farmer's family from Honduras. The family struggles to produce enough food to feed themselves and to make extra money to pay for everyday necessities or buy seeds for the new growing season. The father decides to leave for a city to look for work. At the same time a new teacher arrives at the local school. With the help of the farmer's daughter, he starts a project, the school garden. The garden patch becomes an example of how changing of the farming habits can increase the food production. When the father comes back he learns that the family farm was well kept by his daughter. The local farmers follow this example and as a result, the local families are able to avoid hunger. The teacher also helps the farmers to take their produce to the local farmers' market where they can sell their vegetable for a higher profit.

This fictional story is based on the life of a real person, Don Elias, who passed away in 2000. He worked in Honduras and helped many families. He educated them how to take care of the land and produce better crops. Through this story, the author of the book, Katie Smith Milway shows how simple changes in farming methods can benefit thousands of people. The book is written in a very simple language and it is beautifully illustrated by Sylvie Diagneault. Her color pencil on color paper illustrations add authenticity and emotions to the story.

I found this book very informative and believe that middle school readers can learn a great deal on sustainable farming from it.

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