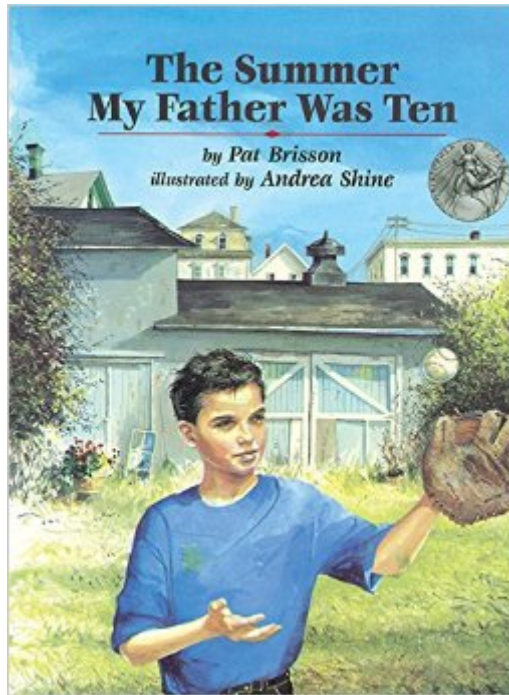


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# The Summer My Father Was Ten



## Synopsis

Every year my father and I plant a garden. Tomatoes, peppers, onions, marigold, and zinnias grow in neat, straight rows...and every spring my father tells me about Mr. Bellavista and the summer my father was ten. -From the book. That was the summer the boy lost a baseball under a tomato plant in Mr. Bellavista's garden. And someone tossed a tomato back instead of the baseball. A lively battle took place, which seemed like great fun at the time, but in the end Mr. Bellavista's garden had been destroyed. In a touching story of one boy's efforts to make amends, we see the rebuilding of a garden and the forming of a relationship across generations. With luminous, beautifully detailed watercolors, the artist has captured both the sadness and the quiet joy woven throughout the tale.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1040L (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Boyds Mills Press; Boyds Mills PR PB ed. edition (September 1, 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1563978296

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Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 9 x 12 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (19 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #56,105 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #17 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Gardening](#) #181 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Multigenerational](#) #262 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Parents](#)

Age Range: 5 - 7 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 2

## Customer Reviews

I must admit to have been rather taken back by this tale. The entire story is so close to a situation that happened to me when I was around the age of the young lad in this story, that I almost feel like it was taken from my head by the author. I too have told the story to my children and now grandchildren. In the story in this book, a young man does harm to an older man's garden, regrets it and then makes amends. He learns a good lesson in life through his actions. The author has done a very nice job of telling this story and the illustrations are quite well done. This is an interesting

book to read to a class of young children and it is rather amazing how many of the children have had similar experiences. It is also rather amazing as to how many will admit it and are willing to discuss it with a bit of prompting. I use this work in class a lot and find it quite helpful. Recommend this one highly.

This is an amazing story to share with students to show them how we can turn our mistakes into some of life's greatest moments. In this story, a child retells the story of her father's youth when an impromptu baseball game gets out of hand and some unthinking boys end up destroying an old man's garden. One boy, the father, regrets his actions but struggles with how to make amends. When he finally works up the nerve to approach the old man, it is the beginning of a beautiful relationship that lasts the rest of the old man's life.

This gentle tale of redemption is appropriate for the six and older child of either gender. In the story, the protagonist (a ten year old boy) redeems an act of mindless vandalism (the destruction of an old man's vegetable garden) by assisting the victim in planting a new garden. This act of redemption develops into a friendship with a lasting and positive affect on the protagonist's life. This book manages to deliver a profound and important moral message without preaching, but rather through gentle persuasion. The text is simple and well written and the illustrations beautiful. I highly recommend this book.

My third graders loved this story and what a great writing springboard about lessons learned and mistakes made right! It let's the kids know we all have stories to tell, some good & some not so good! I love happy endings!

A young boy recounts the story his father tells him every year about the time, when he was ten years old, the father succumbed to the irresistible temptation of ripe tomatoes growing in his neighbor's garden, and in the process of having a vegetable war with his friends, demolished the garden. The father goes on to relate how he finally made amends with the elderly neighbor, and forever after planted a garden each year. The illustrations combine with the text to provide a moving example of how children can learn from their errors, and see the value of control over their behavior, and respect for others as well as themselves. The story is well told without a hint of sermonizing.

excellent book for whole family. wonderful message. read it to my grandchildren and gave them

flower seeds, zinnias, to plant with their father. great book for teachers to read to students in class.

I have been teaching 3rd grade for 20 years. This is my all time favorite book to read to my class. I bought it years ago and it circulates through out our school every spring. Our principal even bought it to give to his father who grew up in an area where the old Italians used to grow their own vegetables. I can't recommend it enough. There is so much children can learn from it.

I would recommend this book for 2-4 graders. 20 second graders sat glued to this book as I read it to them today! It was so enjoyable to watch the various reactions to different parts of the story. This story drives home how our actions effect other people and is done in a very sweet way. I am thrilled I bought this book, and I will enjoy reading this to children for many years.

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