



Mirabelle's  
Forest Garden

Written by  
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Illustrated by  
*Kelemen  
Kinga*

Bucharest, 2017

*To all the visionaries who put their  
head, heart and hands together in the service of  
creating more harmony with and on  
the Earth!*



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[1. Gardening for children - Fiction. 2. Garden Design - Fiction]  
I. Kelemen, Kinga, illustrator II. Title

Summary: A little girl is walking through her village collecting seeds, support and  
advice for a forest garden project in her community.

*“All the world’s problems can be solved in a garden”*  
Geoff Lawton

Dear Reader,



Mirabelle invites you to enter a special gardening game where you  
can plan, play, observe and experiment with a sustainable gardening ethic.

A forest garden or food forest is based on the woodland eco-system  
incorporating different layers of vegetation that are working together,  
being mutually supportive. The result is a way of working the earth that  
is diverse, productive and sustainable ecologically.

Any garden can incorporate principles and techniques from forest  
gardening with fast beneficial effects for biodiversity, soil fertility and food  
production.

The story book includes:

- Reflection questions throughout to keep the interest of smaller  
children and engage with the story. You can also leave the story to stand  
on its own and return to the questions on later readings.
- An interactive section at the end with further info about plants  
and other story elements.
- A glossary explaining terms included in the book.
- References to initiatives that connect children and forest gardens.
- Answers to the reflection questions included throughout the story.

The story is meant to inspire children, families and schools to learn  
about and experiment with sustainable gardening. We can grow our own  
food as a community that takes care of the earth and all of its beings.

One garden at a time!

*Ina*





**Mirabelle** was a little girl who loved plants, gardening, and all things outdoors. It did not matter if it was windy or rainy, sunny or snowy. She always had fun outside.

But there was one thing Mirabelle loved best. This was gardens. She loved to look at all the food and flowers in them. They smelled wonderful too. To put a garden and a forest together is something she'd like to do.

One day Mirabelle decided to make a dream garden of her very own. It would be pretty and special and many plants and trees would grow. She sat down under the large tree in her backyard and began to think of what she would need.

There was much to do.



Mirabelle decided to visit her great grandmother. She was wise and always had a table full of good food. Surely she could help.

When Mirabelle got to Granny's she smiled warmly. "Come in, my dear. I have something good for you if you can help me in the garden."

Mirabelle's eyes lit up. "Is it something sweet, Granny? I am hungry for some of your good food too. Can I have some cauliflower popcorn or my favourite pickles first? I'll gladly help you with the garden too." Mirabelle and Granny then walked to the garden.



•Question 1:

Can you recognize some of the plants and vegetables granny has in the attic?



•Invitation:

Find grandmothers in your community that hold old knowledge of plant uses and benefits. Ask them about their favourite plants!



Granny,  
I need help for a special garden theme.  
A forest garden is part of my dream.  
Full of tasty food in beautiful colours  
And smells to show all the tasty flavours.  
I want perennial plants,  
which come out every year.  
also shrubs, fruit and nut trees.



Granny shook her head and wrinkled her nose.

“I don’t know how to make a garden like that, my dear, but I am sure you’ll find a way to make it grow. You can take seeds from my garden and some of the herbs to get you started.”



Mirabelle continues her visit to her uncle next door who was very skilled with trees. She wants to speak with him too about her dream.



•**Question 2:** Do you know plants that can help your body when you have a cold or a cough?



•**Invitation:** Try drinking plant infusions when you have a cold, noticing the different flavours. Learn to identify medicinal plants in natural environments.

