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Veggie Veggies (English)

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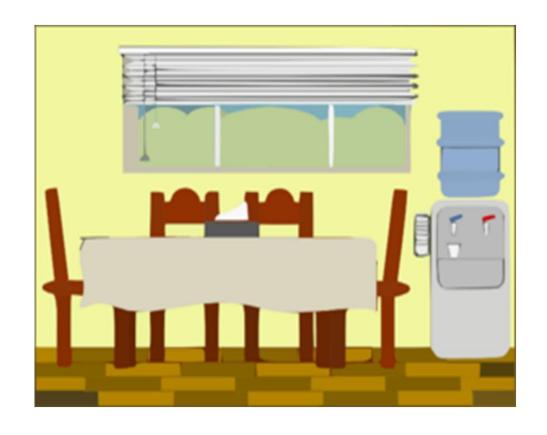
Title Page and Pages 2, 4(bottom), 5-7, 8 (onion and breath), 9, 10 (tomato), 11, 12 (carrot and rabbit), 13, 14 (pepper and fire), 15-17, 20 (top), 21, and 24: Openclipart.com / Public Domain;

Pages 1, 3, 4 (boy), 8 (boy), 10 (boy), 12 (boy), 14 (boy), 18-19, 20(bottom), and 23: $\mbox{\ensuremath{\mathbb{C}}}$ Karon Harden, used with permission

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Once upon a time there was a little boy named Bash who lived with his parents and his sister, Maryam.



One night at dinner, Bash refused to eat.

His mother asked, "Why aren't you eating, Bash?"



Bash replied, "Mum, I don't like my veggies."

His mother said, "Can't you see how your sister,

Maryam, is eating all of *her* veggies?"

His father said, "You must eat them all up before you leave the table!"

Bash was angry.

So still he did not eat his veggies.



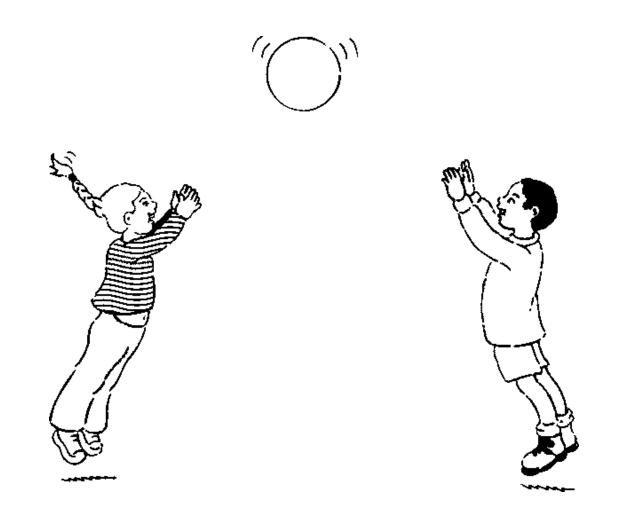
When his parents were not looking, he threw them in the bin.





The next day at school, Bash went outside to eat lunch with his friend Ikram during the break.

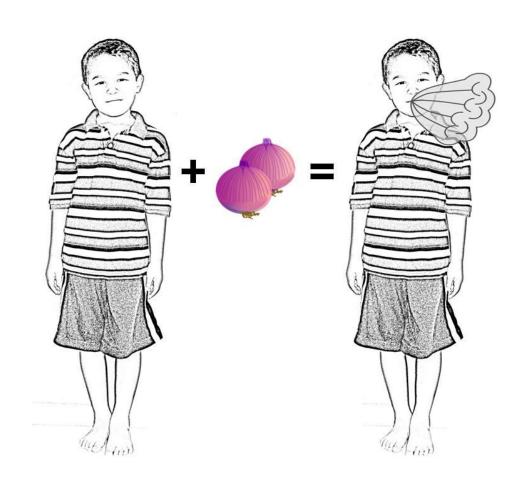
After lunch, they began to talk and play.



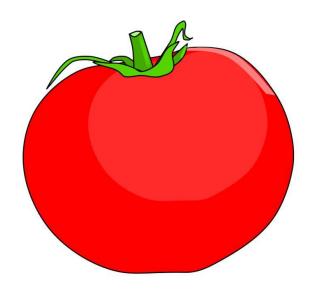
Ikram said, "Bash, today at lunch I saw you pick out all your onions. I love onions. Don't you like onions?"



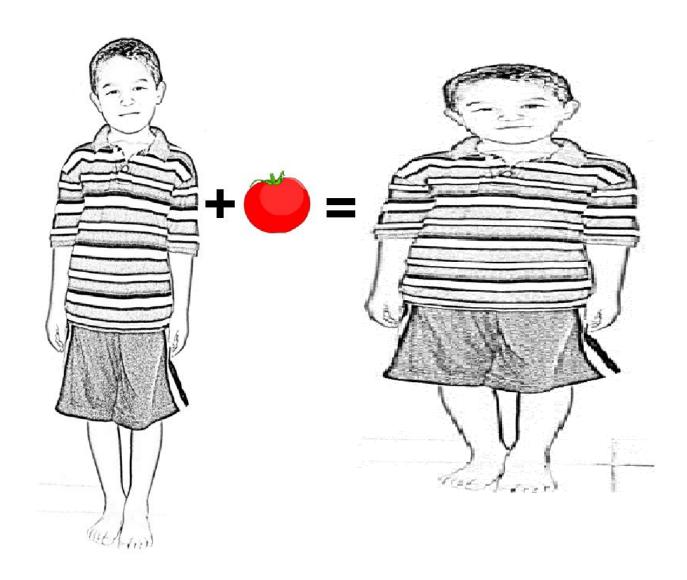
Bash replied, "No, I don't like onions because when I eat them, they make my mouth smell bad."



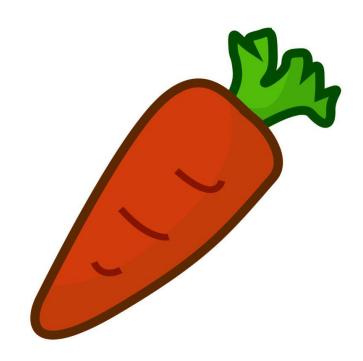
Ikram said, "I understand. But what about tomatoes? I love tomatoes, and tomatoes don't smell bad."



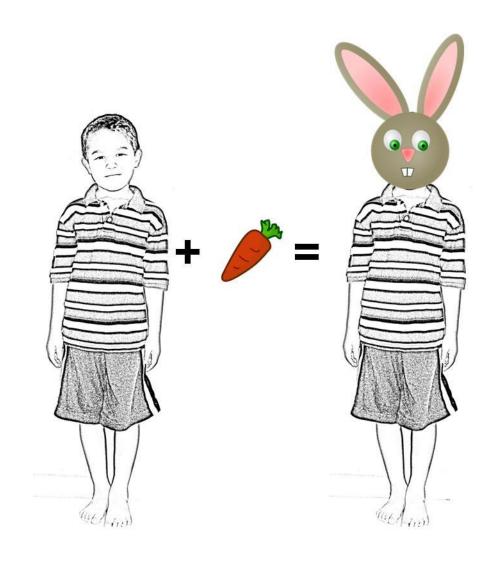
Bash replied, "No, I don't like tomatoes because they are too round. I am afraid if I eat them, I may become round too."



Ikram said, "I've never seen that! So what about carrots? I love carrots, and carrots are not round."



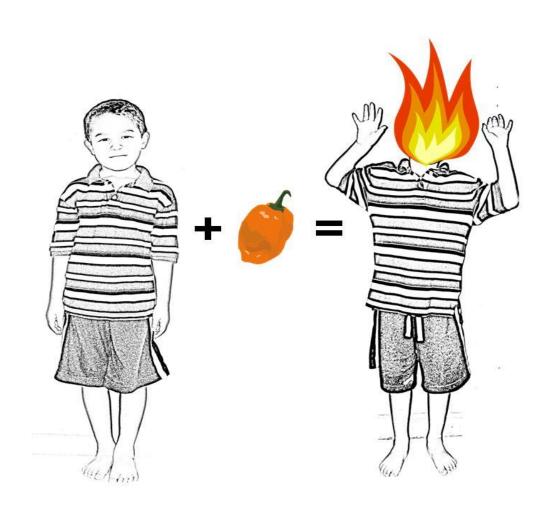
Bash replied, "No, I don't like carrots because rabbits eat them. I am afraid if I eat them, I may turn into a rabbit too!"



Ikram said, "Well, I've never seen that either! So what about hot peppers? I love hot peppers, and rabbits don't eat hot peppers!"



Bash replied, "No, I don't like hot peppers because they burn my tongue. I am afraid if I eat them, my head may catch on fire!"



Ikram laughed and said, "Now you're just being silly!"

Bash laughed too.

Ikram said, "You know when you mix veggies together in a stew, they taste so good!"



Bash replied, "Yes, but I still don't like veggies!"

Then break was over, so they went back inside.

Weeks passed.

Months passed.

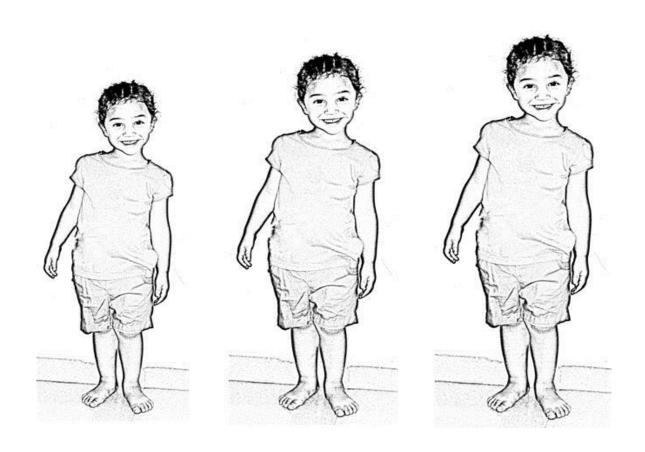


Bash still had his bad attitude, and he kept on throwing his veggies in the bin.

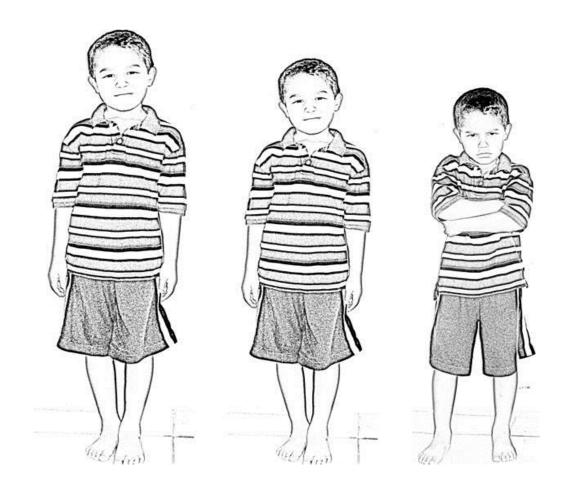


Soon enough, Bash noticed some changes in his body.

His sister, Maryam, was growing bigger, but he was growing smaller.



Maryam was growing bigger.



While Bash was growing smaller.

Bash decided to talk to Maryam.

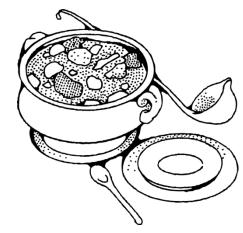
Of course he found her eating some veggies.

Bash asked, "Maryam, why are you growing more than I am?"



Maryam replied, "Why do you think Mum always tells us to eat our veggies?

Veggies taste so good, and they make us grow up strong and healthy!



But you always throw yours in the bin!"



Bash said, "Thank you, Maryam. Now I understand, and now I know what to do."

From that day on, Bash turned into a good boy.

He started eating all his veggies because he wanted to grow big with his sister.



Their parents were happy to see both Bash and Maryam growing up strong and healthy.

And surprise!

Bash discovered that veggies were delicious after all!



Check Your Understanding!

- 1. What was Bash's problem?
- 2. Why didn't Bash like onions? What about tomatoes, carrots, and hot peppers?
- 3. What started happening to Bash's body when he kept throwing all his veggies in the bin?
- 4. Why did Maryam always eat her veggies?
- 5. What happened at the end of the story?

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