

What's growing around us?



Agriculture **in** **the Classroom**

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What's growing around us?





“Okay Abby, let me see your agenda.”

Her mom always looked at Abby’s agenda to see what homework Abby had to do.

“Here it is mom, see, we have to do a project called ‘Then and Now’ - Where Our Food Comes From,” Abby said as she held out her agenda.

“Well, that sounds interesting. Do you want me to help?” her mom asked.

“Yes, that would be great.”

“Well, I think you should put away your books for awhile and let’s go shopping,” Mom said.

Abby could not believe what she heard.





“You don’t want me to do my homework?”

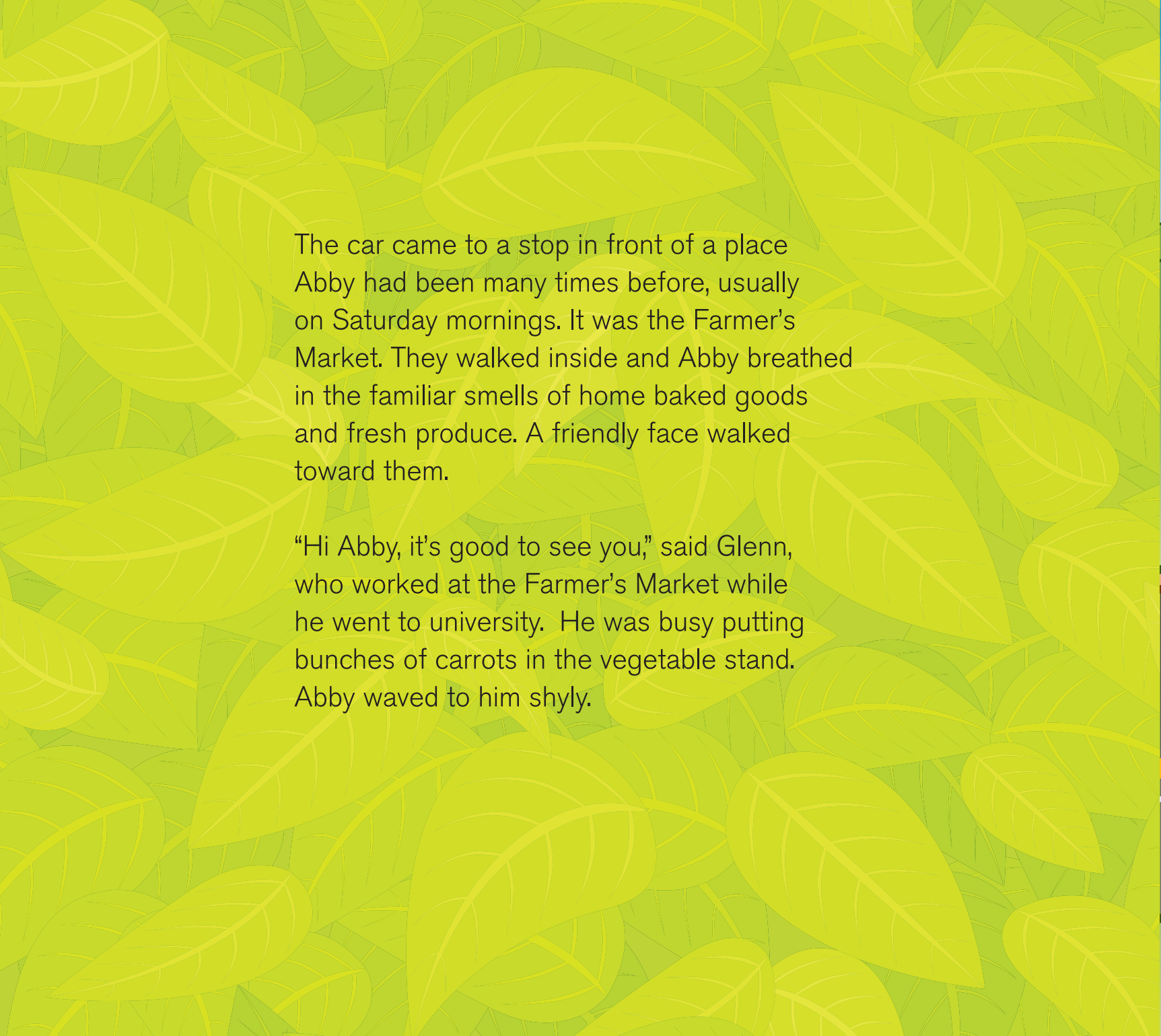
“Nope,” her mom said. “Now put on your coat and boots and come along with me.”

Abby was confused. This was the first time ever mom stopped her from doing homework.

“Ok, mom, where are we going? This is not the way to the mall,” Abby said.

“Be patient, you’ll soon see,” mom replied.





The car came to a stop in front of a place Abby had been many times before, usually on Saturday mornings. It was the Farmer's Market. They walked inside and Abby breathed in the familiar smells of home baked goods and fresh produce. A friendly face walked toward them.

"Hi Abby, it's good to see you," said Glenn, who worked at the Farmer's Market while he went to university. He was busy putting bunches of carrots in the vegetable stand. Abby waved to him shyly.

Our Own
cabbage..... 3.00
lettuce..... 2.75

Our Own
turnip..... 1.90
potatoes..... 4.00
carrots..... 3.90



Our Own
cabbage..... 3.00
lettuce..... 2.75

Our Own
turnip..... 1.50
potatoes..... 4.00
carrots..... 3.50



“Glenn, can you answer a question for me?”
Mom asked.

“Sure.”

“Where do these carrots come from?” asked Mom.

“Very funny Ms. Grace, you know everything in this
market is grown here,” Glenn laughed.

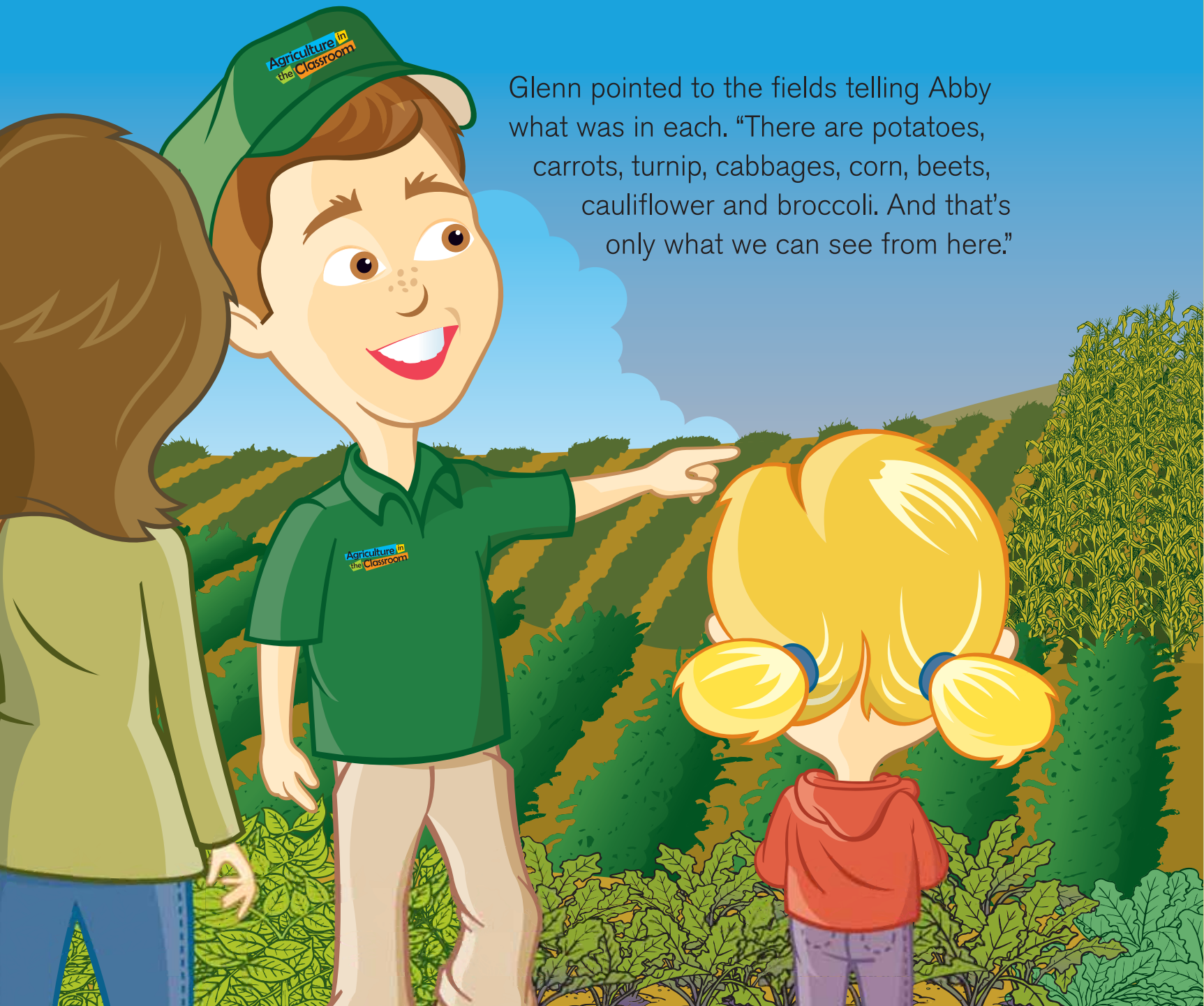
“Well, I am not so sure if Abby knows,” said Mom.

“C'mon Abby.” Glenn led Abby and her mom through
the building to the back entrance. When Glenn
opened the door Abby stood in amazement.

She looked right; she looked left.
As far as she could see were fields
of vegetables.







Glenn pointed to the fields telling Abby what was in each. "There are potatoes, carrots, turnip, cabbages, corn, beets, cauliflower and broccoli. And that's only what we can see from here."





“Do you see the tallest crop there in the middle Abby,” asked Glenn.

“Yes, I do, what are they?” Abby replied.



“When you take the kernels you can make bread, you can boil it and eat it and you can even pop it,” Glenn said. “You can also eat it fresh off the cob or use the kernels and toss them in a salad.”



“You mean corn,” Abby exclaimed. “Like corn bread, corn on the cob and popcorn. That’s awesome.”



“Abby is working on a school project, Then and Now - Where Our Food Comes From”, mom said. “You have been a great help Glenn. Thank you.”



“Then and Now,” said Glenn. “Abby have a look at that old picture on the wall over there. That’s the owner’s grandfather. He started this farm back in 1938. Back then this farm wasn’t even a quarter the size it is now and everything was done by hand. Today we have machinery that helps us put our seed in the ground and to help us harvest our potatoes, but some vegetables are still harvested by hand. And Abby, the vegetables we sell out in the store are usually cut that morning, it’s that fresh!”

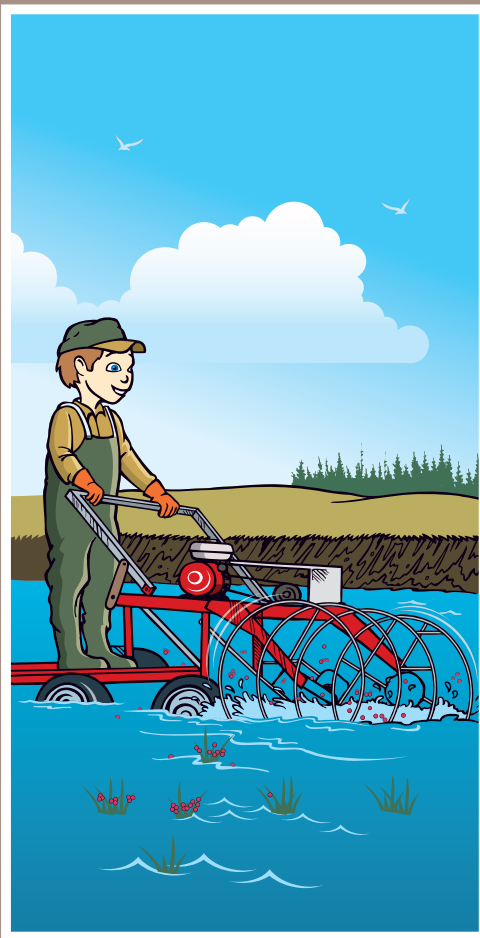


“That reminds me,” said mom.
“I have to buy some vegetables.
I’m cooking turkey dinner tomorrow with
all the fixings. Let’s hurry now Abby, I still
have to get to the supermarket to get
cranberries for my sauce.”

“Do you know we have cranberry farms in Newfoundland, Abby,” asked Glenn.

“I’ve seen cranberry farms on TV,” said Abby. “They grow them in water right?”





“No,” said Glenn. “Most people think that, but the farmers flood the field in the fall when the berries are ready to harvest. The berries are beat off the bushes, they float to the surface and are easily gathered up from there.”

“You know Abby we also have lots of chicken farms. In fact, there is a chicken farm just down the road that you could visit,” said Glenn.

“Oh cool, let’s go to the chicken farm, Mom!” said Abby.



Abby and her mom were greeted at the chicken farm by Maggie the farm manager. "Would you like to see the chickens?" asked Maggie. "Yes!" said Abby. Maggie explained, "I cannot let you inside the barn, but we do have a viewing room for our guests. Our chicken farmers are proud to grow safe, quality chickens that are as healthy as possible by minimizing the germs that come into our barns."

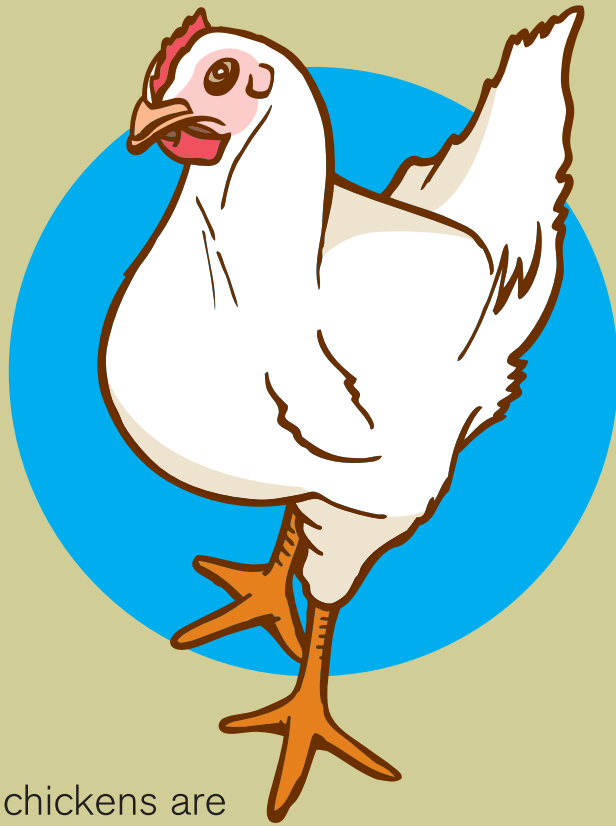


Abby and her mom watched the chickens through a window. The chickens were roaming around the barn, protected from predators, weather, and disease. The chickens would eat grain from the red automated feeders.

“Eggs also come from chickens, so why don’t we see any eggs in this barn?” asked Abby.



“These are broiler chickens that are raised only for meat. Chickens that are raised to lay eggs are called ‘layers’. The eggs are collected by the farmer and delivered to the processing plant for washing, grading, and packaging. From there, they are shipped across the province to the grocery stores,” said Mom.

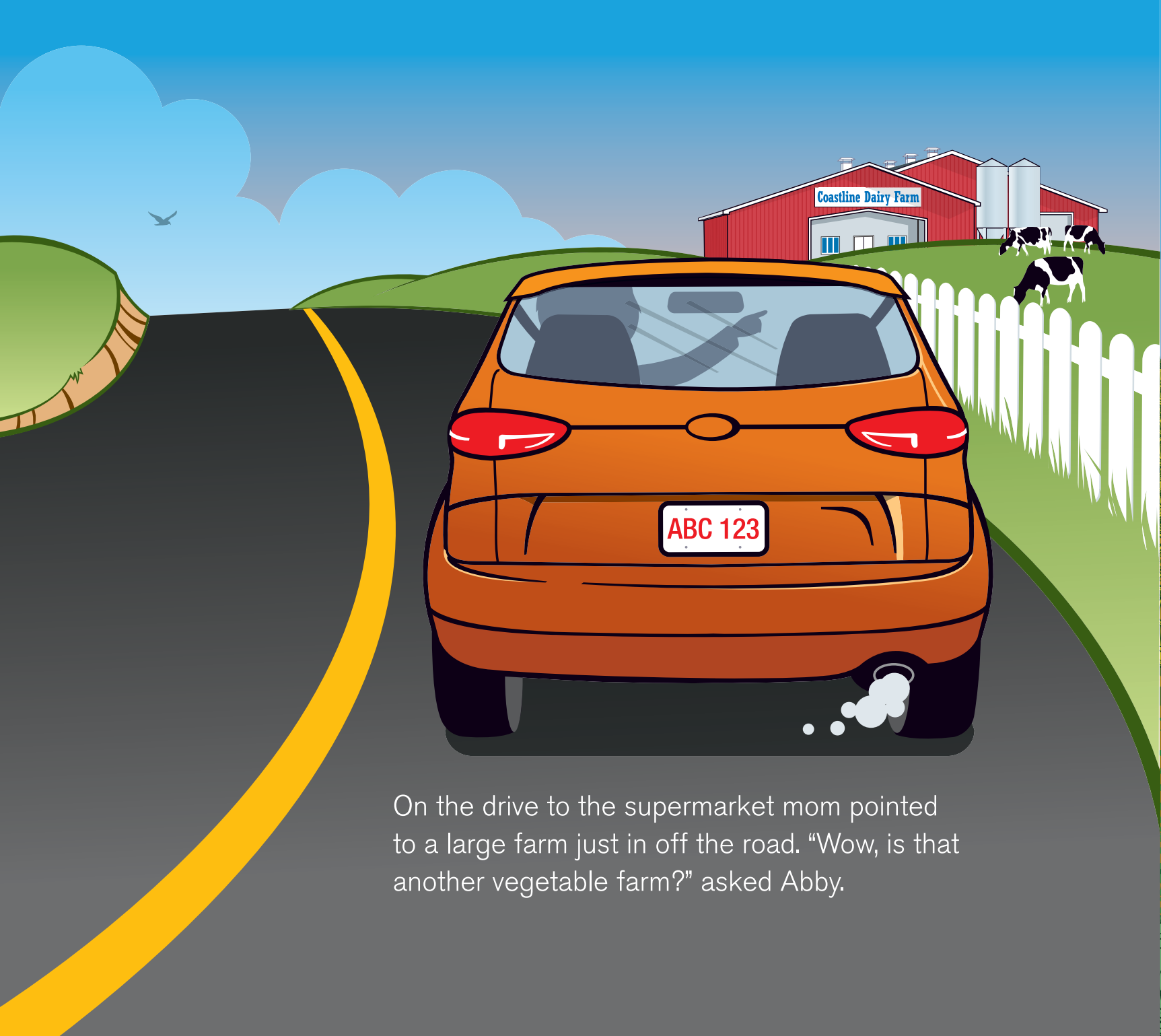


“Broiler chickens are used to make many delicious meals such as chicken fingers, chicken pizza, and chicken burgers,” said Maggie.

“Mmm I love chicken burgers!” said Abby.

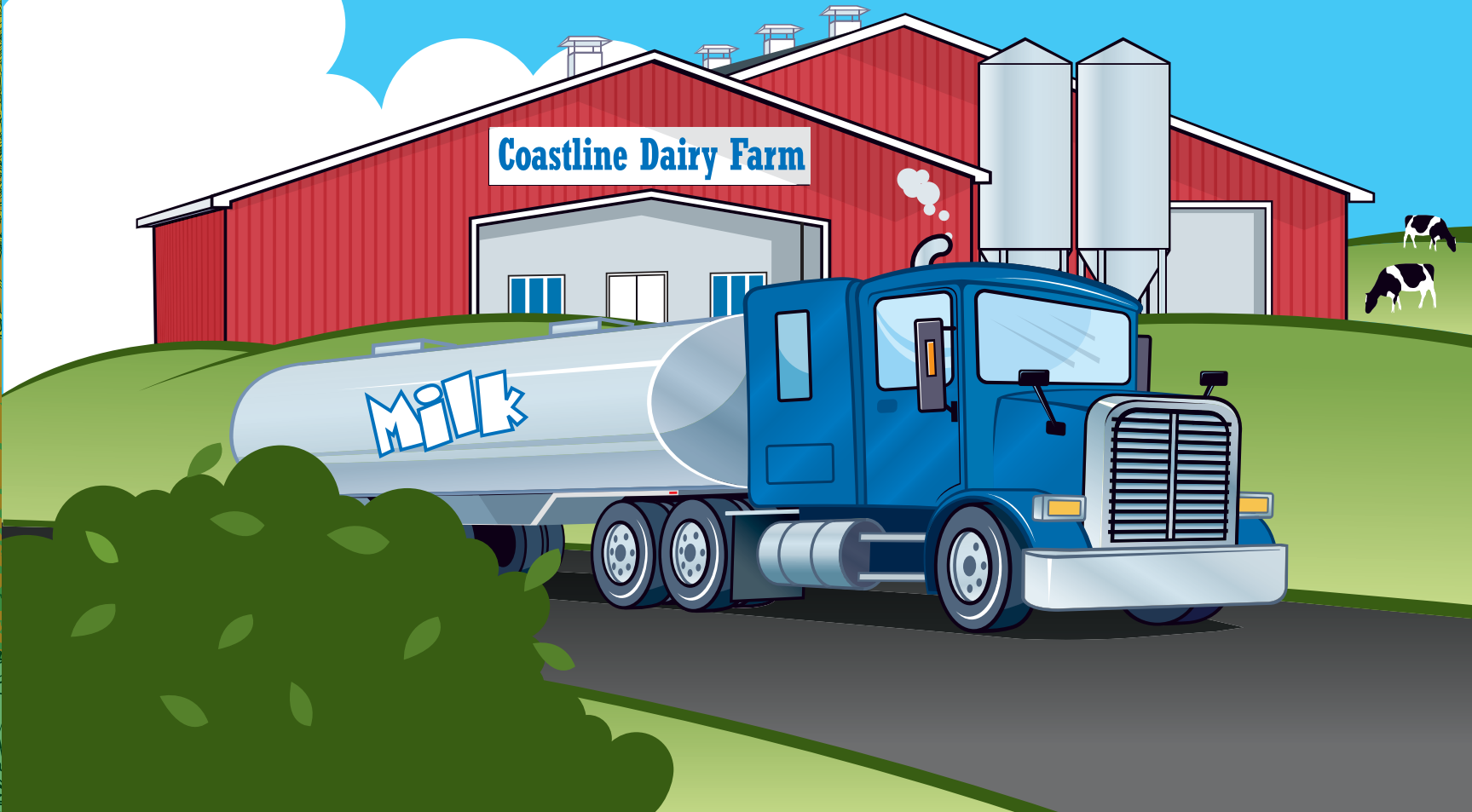
“Well you’ve learned where the chicken for your chicken burger comes from, we should learn where the cheese comes from,” Mom replied.






On the drive to the supermarket mom pointed to a large farm just in off the road. “Wow, is that another vegetable farm?” asked Abby.

“No. That’s a dairy farm. Cows are milked there twice a day - every day. All the milk is collected and every second day a large truck comes and takes it to a plant where the milk is prepared and packaged. Then the milk is taken to the store where we buy it. Milk is also used to make cheese, yogurt, butter and ice cream.”





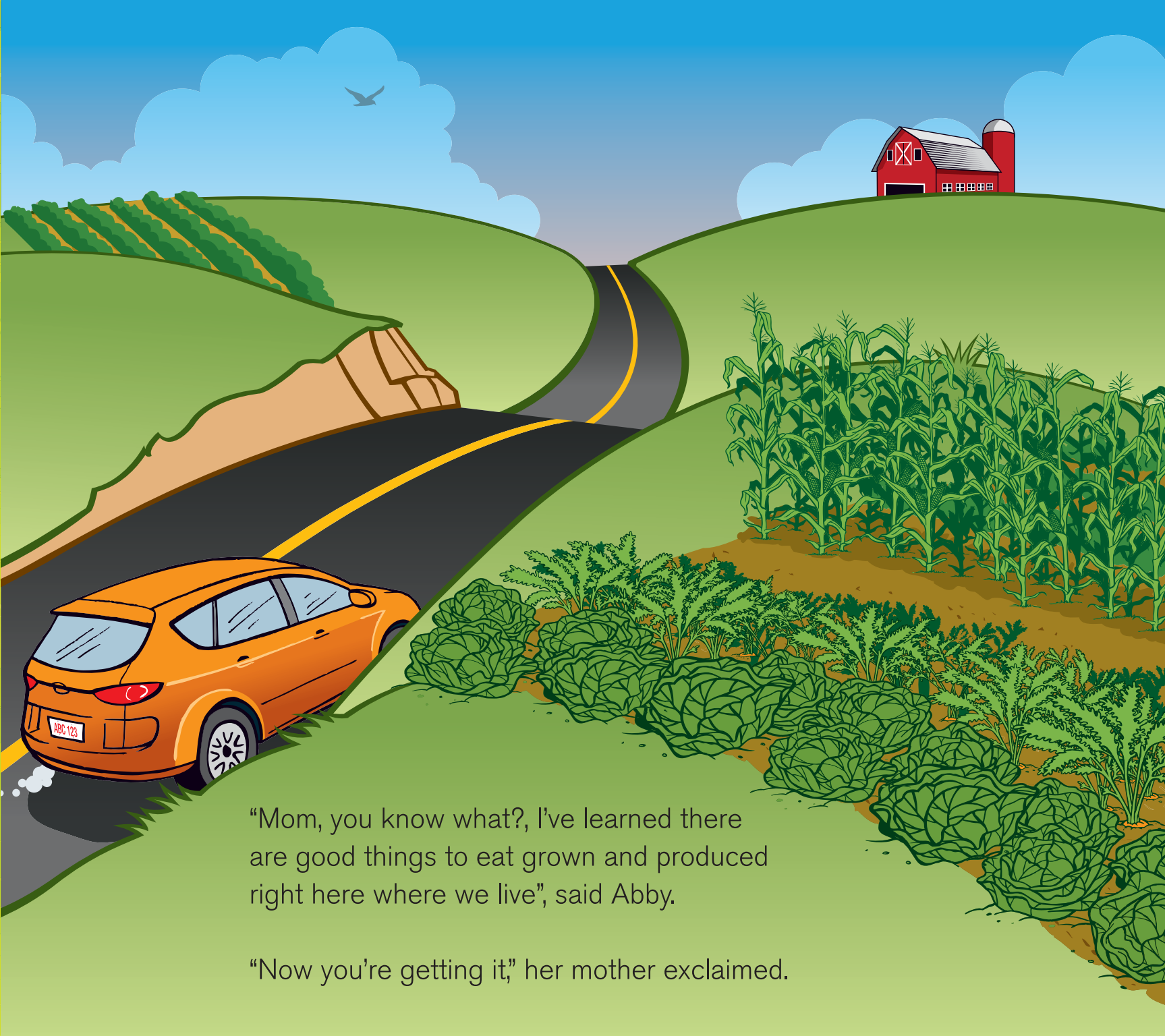
“How do we get enough milk for all of us here in Newfoundland and Labrador?” Abby asked. “Everyone in my school drinks at least one container of milk every day.”

“Well Abby, long ago a farmer would sit on a stool and milk his herd by hand. Now we have several large farms across the island and they have computerized milking parlors where one person can milk one hundred and seventy cows in two hours. So, there’s lots of milk for all of us,” mom explained.





“And guess what Abby? Chocolate milk doesn’t come from brown cows.” Mom and Abby had a big laugh about that.



“Mom, you know what?, I’ve learned there are good things to eat grown and produced right here where we live”, said Abby.

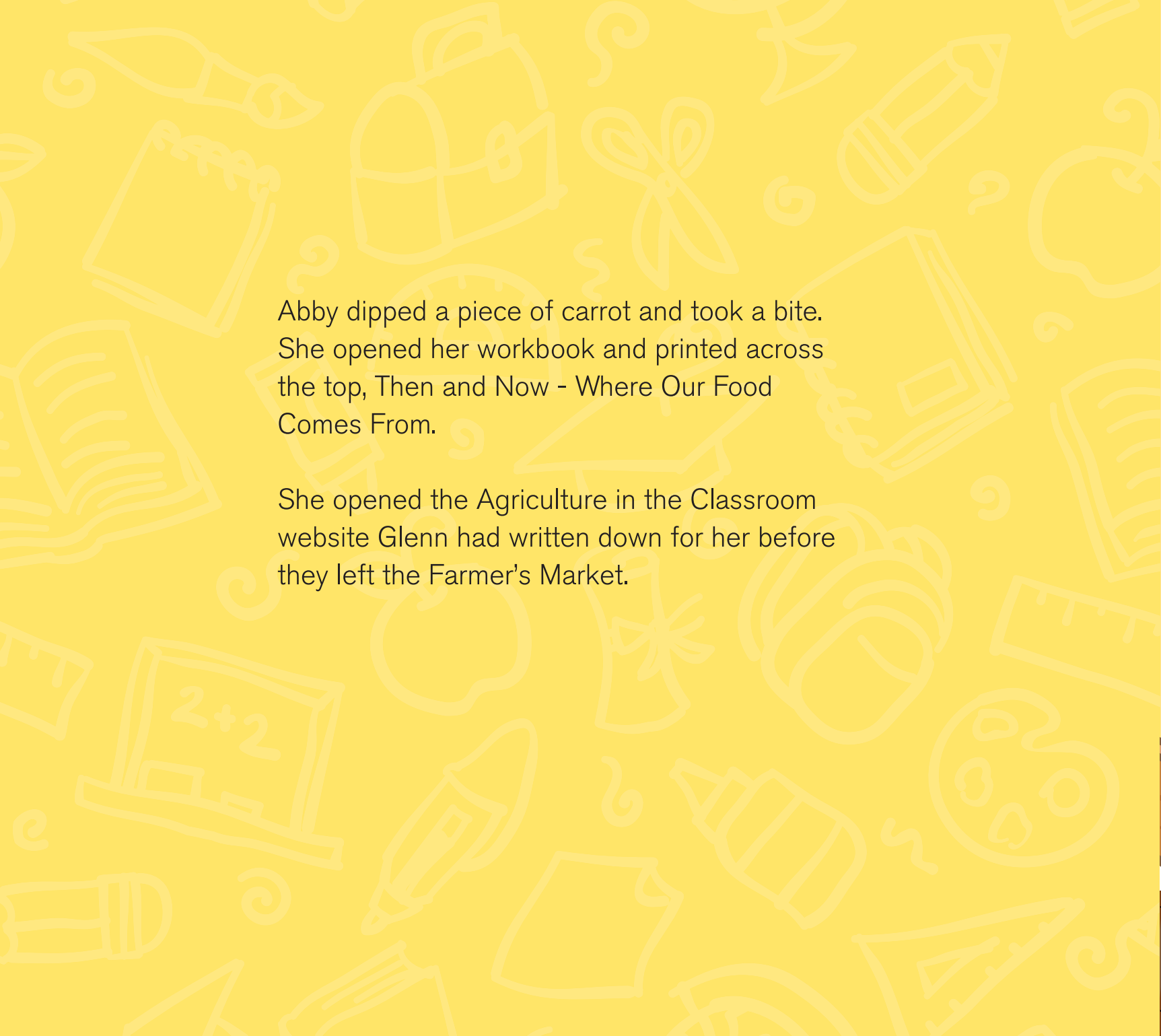
“Now you’re getting it,” her mother exclaimed.



When they got home from the supermarket Abby started in on her homework.

“Mom,” said Abby, “I thought you were taking me away from doing my homework to go shopping, but really we were doing my homework weren’t we?”

“Ahhhh you found me out,” mom joked as she laid down a small plate of sliced vegetables and dip for them to snack on.

The background is a solid yellow color with a repeating pattern of white line-art icons. The icons include various school supplies such as pencils, pens, notebooks, a ruler, a protractor, and a compass. Interspersed among these are food-related items like a carrot, a tomato, a watermelon slice, and a whole apple. There are also decorative swirls and a small gift box icon.

Abby dipped a piece of carrot and took a bite.
She opened her workbook and printed across
the top, Then and Now - Where Our Food
Comes From.

She opened the Agriculture in the Classroom
website Glenn had written down for her before
they left the Farmer's Market.



Then and Now-
Where our Food Comes From

Agriculture in the Classroom
Welcome

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She smiled and thought about how her mother had fooled her and how this was the most fun she ever had working on a school project.

Thank you for inviting us into your classroom and library. We hope that you and your students have enjoyed, “What’s growing around us?”

To learn about our school programs and teaching resources visit:

Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Agriculture

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