

## JIM'S FAVORITE STORE

It was a warm, spring Saturday morning, but that wasn't the only reason Jim woke up in a good mood. He was going to the nursery with his father. Jim loved gardening, and Mr. Ito's nursery was Jim's favorite store.

Jim could see from the parking lot that the flowers and shrubs at the nursery were already in full bloom. There were yellow daffodils and tulips in a range of colors from white to purple so dark they were almost black. Jim loved the bright green of the new leaves on the trees. It had been a long, cold winter, and the flowers cheered him up.

Jim's father rubbed his hands together. "Let's go do some shopping," he said. Jim pushed the shopping cart while his father piled things into it. They bought a bag of potting soil. Jim loved the way it smelled. They walked down rows of plants and seedlings, and piled pots into their cart. They bought petunias and geraniums for the hanging baskets they made every year. They bought ferns and flowers for their deck. They bought fertilizer.

Jim's father held up a birdhouse. "Should we get this?" he asked Jim.

Jim shook his head. "Let's make our own," he said.

They bought vegetable seeds for their garden. They got radishes, carrots, zucchini and red beet seeds. They bought trays of young tomato plants and lettuce. "Are you sure we should get lettuce?" Jim asked his father. "Remember how the slugs ate it all last year?"

His father sighed and nodded. "I'm going to spread sawdust this year. I heard that keeps the slugs away." After Jim and his father filled their cart, they parked it in the shade and strolled around the nursery looking at all the shrubs and trees. "I think we should plant an apple tree this year," said Jim.

"I agree," said his father. "There is no room in the car this time, but maybe we can come back next week and pick one out." They paid and drove home, and spent the rest of the day working in the yard. Jim was tired when he went to bed, but he was happy and the yard looked great. He couldn't wait to eat the vegetables.



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**ANSWER THE QUESTIONS ABOUT *JIM'S FAVORITE STORE***

1. What is a synonym for nursery, as used in this story?
  - a. day care center
  - b. garden center
  - c. hospital
  - d. dairy
  
2. Who is Mr. Ito?
  - a. Jim
  - b. Jim's father
  - c. the nursery owner
  - d. Jim's gardener
  
3. According to the story, what do Jim and his father do annually?
  - a. make hanging baskets
  - b. make a bird house
  - c. plant lettuce
  - d. plant an apple tree
  
4. What happened to their lettuce last year?
  - a. Mr. Ito ate it.
  - b. Jim and his father ate it.
  - c. Slugs ate it.
  - d. Snails ate it.
  
5. What is your favorite store? Why?

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**Answers to *JIM'S FAVORITE STORE***

1. b
2. c
3. a
4. c
5. Answers will vary.