



The Read Bean

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On her birthday,
Tra's mother gave her a spe-
cial gift.

“Wow! Red beans and a
gardening book” Tra said.
“Now I can grow my own red
bean plant.”





The first day . . .

First, plant the seed,
Tra read.
So she did.



*“You’re doing great, Tra!”
the book told her.*





Now, water it.

La La La!
Tra sang as she did just that.





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“My red bean plant
will soon grow up,”
Tra told her friends.

“You have to water it
a lot to keep it healthy,”
they said.



“Just like kids have to
drink a lot of milk to
grow big and strong!”





A few days later,
the red bean sprouted.

“Look, Mom!” Tra called. “It’s growing!”





The next morning, Tra watered her plant again.

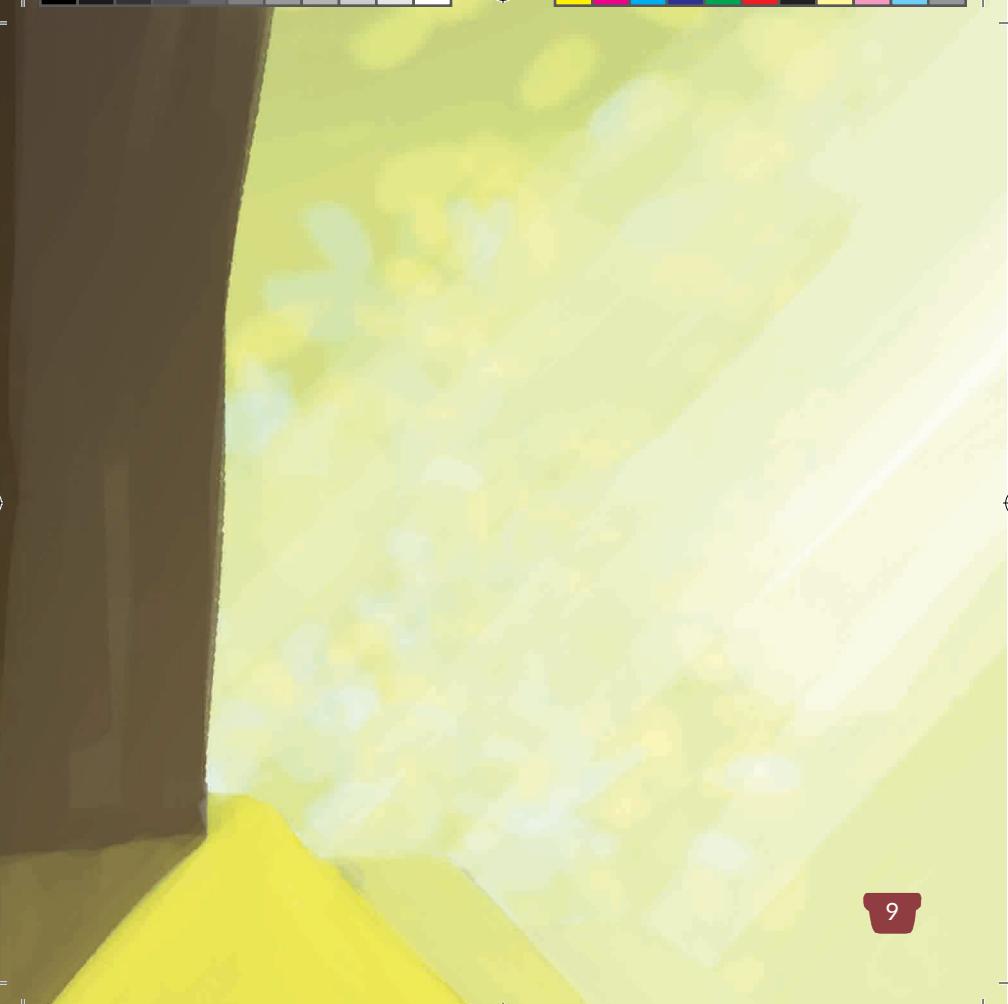
La La La! Drink, drink, drink! she sang. "If you drink more water, you'll grow up faster!"



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"Oh my, Tra, not like that!" said the book.







Tra watered again at noon.
La La La!

“Oh my, Tra!” the book said,
louder now. “My pages say not
to water a plant at noon.”

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At night . . .

But Tra kept right on watering . . .
La La La, La La La!

“Oh my, Tra! You’ve forgotten to read me!”





The third day . . .

Tra gave her mother instructions as she left for school. “Give my plant more water at noon, please!”



“Have you read the book?” her mother asked.



“In my pages, it says to water the plant only once a day,” the book said sadly.

“Oh my, Tra!”





Three days later . . .

Tra was sad too.
"My poor plant!" she cried.





At school, she talked to her friends.



“I have been taking such good care of my plant. Why is it so sad?”

“What does the book say?” they asked.





“Oh my,” Tra said.
“I stopped reading it.”



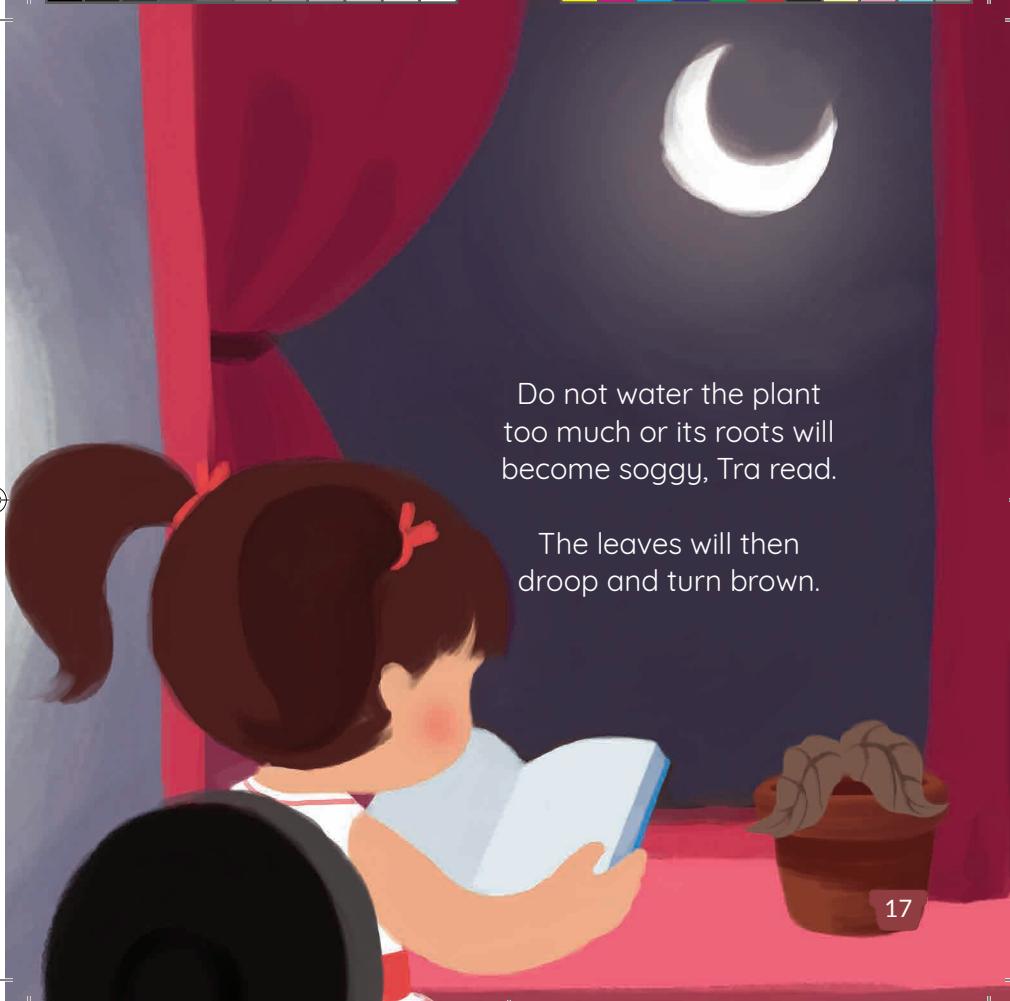


At home, Tra showed the plant to
her mother

“I’m sorry, Mom,” Tra
said. “I’m going to read
the book now.”

“That’s a great idea,” her
mother replied.





Do not water the plant too much or its roots will become soggy, Tra read.

The leaves will then droop and turn brown.





“I’m so sorry,
Red Bean,”
Tra whispered.





“The plant won’t be sad, because he knows you love him,” her mother said.

“You can show him your love by learning how to take good care of him.”







“You can also say sorry to the book,
because you ignored her. She needs
your attention too!”





A few days later, Red
Bean was healthy
again.





Now, Tra
and her
gardening
book were
best friends!

