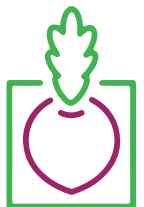


Let's See with Betsy
Celery Story



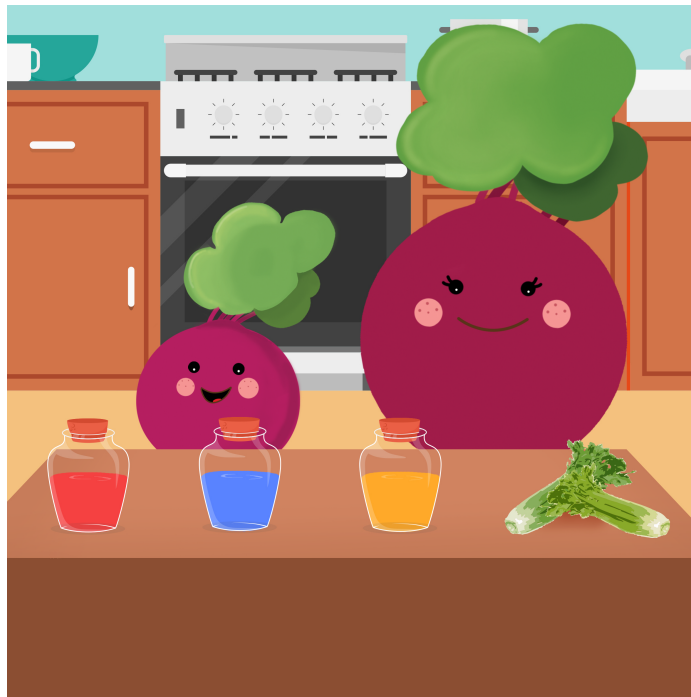
Betsy was tired after running around at soccer practice. She couldn't wait to take a sip of water. "Wow, I was so THIRSTY!" she said. After a big gulp, she headed home with Mrs. Beet.



When she walked in the house she took off her shoes, and washed her hands. Mrs. Beet said: "Betsy, the plants are thirsty. Can you help me to water them?" Betsy thought for a minute. "How can plants be thirsty? Do they drink from a water bottle??" Betsy entered the kitchen and saw her mom watering the flower pots on the table, and the herb garden in the window sill. Mrs. Beet had a tiny tin can she was pouring water out of. The water poured out of the spout, and onto the soil. She watched the water slowly soak into the soil and disappear. Betsy still didn't understand. "Mom" said Betsy, "How does the plant drink the water? Where does the water go? How do we know the plant needs water?"

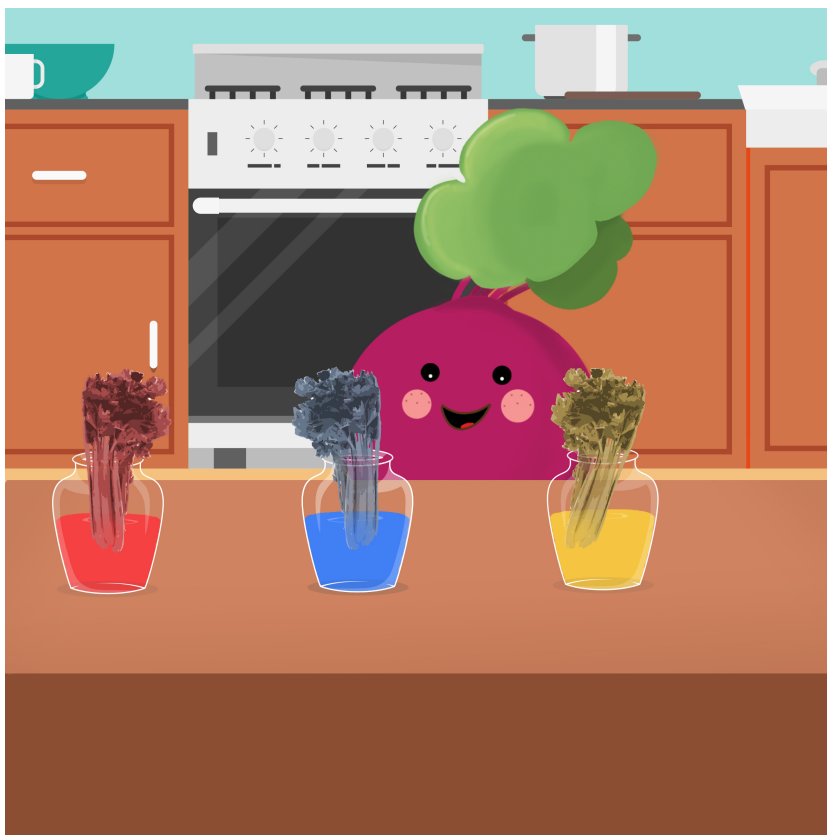


Mrs. Beet smiled: “Betsy, you have a lot of questions! Let me show you just how plants drink water. Why don’t you grab some celery out of the refrigerator.” Betsy took some celery over to the table where Mrs. Beet had three glasses of water and three tiny bottles filled with pretty colors. Betsy felt excited! “I wonder what we will do!” she said.



Mrs. Beet added drops of the pretty colors to each glass. The water changed color right before her eyes - blue, yellow, and red! Then, Mrs. Beet placed the celery in the colored glasses of water. "This is food dye. It changes the color of the food we eat. Let's leave these here and check on them in the morning when you wake up." "What is going to happen?" asked Betsy. "You'll just have to wait and see." Said Mrs. Beet.

Betsy woke up the next morning and ran straight to the kitchen. She couldn't believe what she saw! The leaves and the celery stalk had turned the same color as the water! One was red, one was blue, and the other yellow. Mrs. Beet explained: "Celery has a large root that sucks up water from the soil. The water travels up the stalk of the celery in tiny tubes, just like the straw in your water bottle, moving up into the leaves. The leaves are like the stomach of the plant."



Betsy looked closely at the celery. She saw the tiny tubes filled with the colored water. Even the leaves had changed color! Her mom was right, the celery had sucked up the water just like her straw. The next day after soccer practice, Betsy took another big sip from her water bottle. Before heading out of the kitchen she stopped, and saw the small tin can on the window sill. Betsy smiled, and gave the herb garden a nice big drink of water. "Plants are thirsty too." she remembered.

