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Strega Nona's Harvest

Tessa McMillan

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Reviewer: Tessa McMillan  
Reading Level: Preschool, Primary  
Rating: Dependable  
Genre: Picture books; Fantasy fiction;  
Subject: Vegetable gardening--Fiction; Gardening--Fiction; Witches--Fiction; Books--Reviews;  

Strega Nona is planting her yearly garden with the help of Big Anthony and Bambolona. Strega Nona instructs them on how they should plant the seeds. Big Anthony wants to grow his own garden, but not in such a strict a way as Strega Nona suggests. Big Anthony haphazardly plants his secret seeds behind the goat shed. Then he performs Strega Nona's nightly ritual to aid the plant's growth. After Strega Nona harvests all of her produce, Big Anthony begins to secretly leave his over-abundant produce at her door. She uses that extra produce to feed the whole town in a Harvest Feast, but never finds out where or from whom the produce comes from.

DePaola's illustrations in transparent acrylics are fun and vibrant. He uses both text and illustrations to help get his story across. This is a good story to read to children when parents or teachers want to teach children about working hard and following instructions.

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