

The Sustainable Cotton Crop



Sarah Draheim
Narrabri Public School



Enviro-Stories

Enviro-Stories is an innovative literacy education program that inspires learning about natural resource and catchment management issues. Developed by PeeKdesigns, this program provides students with an opportunity to publish their own stories that have been written for other kids to support learning about their local area.

www.envirostories.com.au

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The Sustainable Cotton Crop

Author: Sarah Draheim

Teacher: Mrs. Allison

School: Narrabri Public School

This book has been published as part of the 2017 Sensational Soils Enviro-Stories program which was supported by the Cotton Research and Development Corporation.

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ISBN: 978-0-9954323-5-2

Enviro-Stories is a PeekKdesigns initiative, www.peekdesigns.com.au.

Citation: Draheim, S. 2017. *The Sustainable Cotton Crop*. Cotton Research and Development Corporation, NSW.





One hot summer day a farmer named Sally was out in her paddock harvesting her cotton.

Every year Sally would take her cotton down to the Cotton Gin and get paid hundreds of dollars for every bale she gave them.





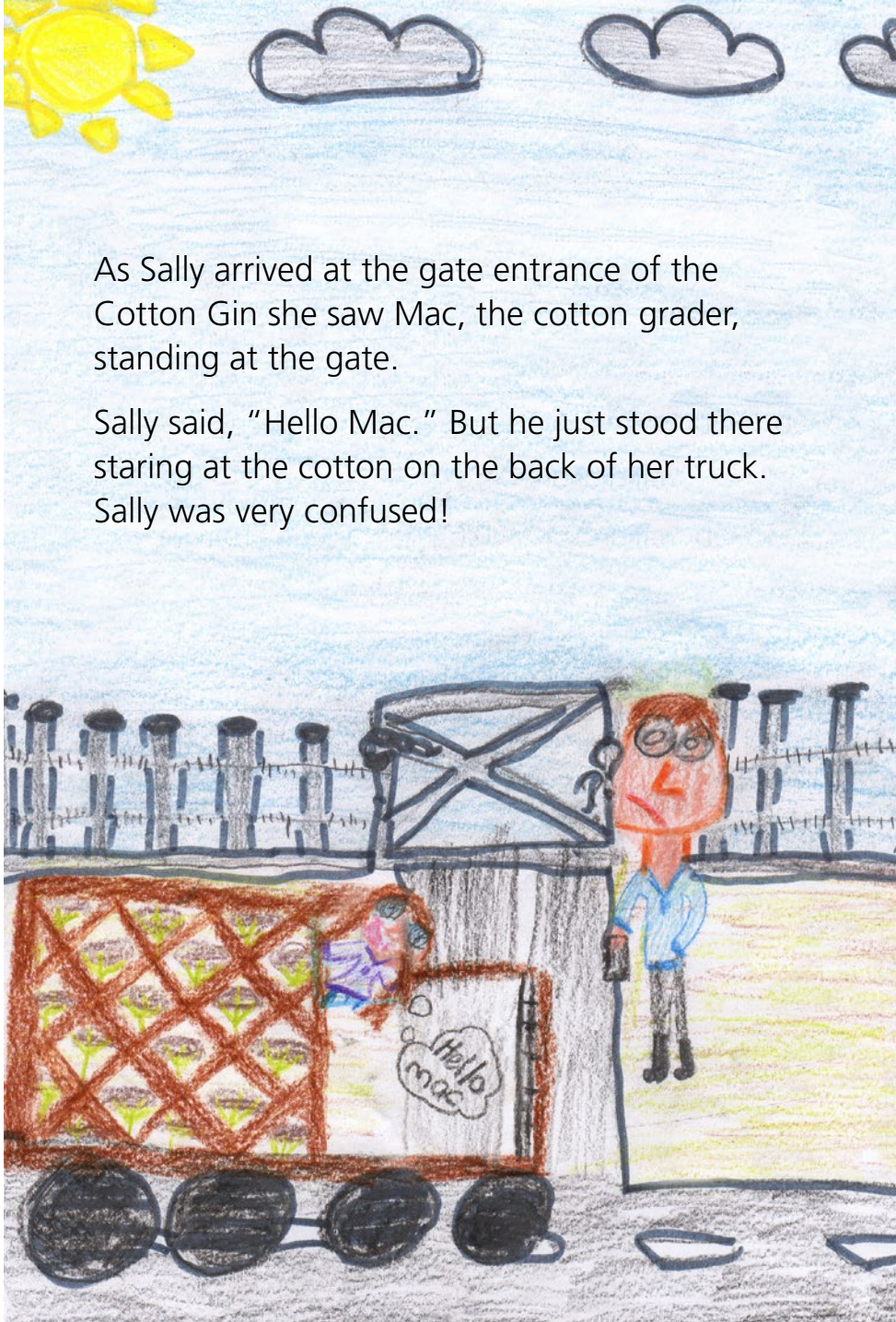
Sally was working extra hard this year because it was the Cotton Gin's anniversary and she wanted her cotton to be the best.

Unfortunately, what Sally didn't know was that because she had been growing her crops in the same spot for a long time the nutrients in her soil had died out.



After Sally had finished harvesting her crops she jumped on her tractor and carried the harvested cotton to her truck and loaded it on. When she had finished loading the cotton she drove the truck down to the Cotton Gin.






As Sally arrived at the gate entrance of the Cotton Gin she saw Mac, the cotton grader, standing at the gate.

Sally said, "Hello Mac." But he just stood there staring at the cotton on the back of her truck. Sally was very confused!

After she had parked her truck she walked to the back and gasped. Chris, the boss of the Cotton Gin, was walking towards Sally's truck.

Sally was nervous. When Chris reached Sally he paused...



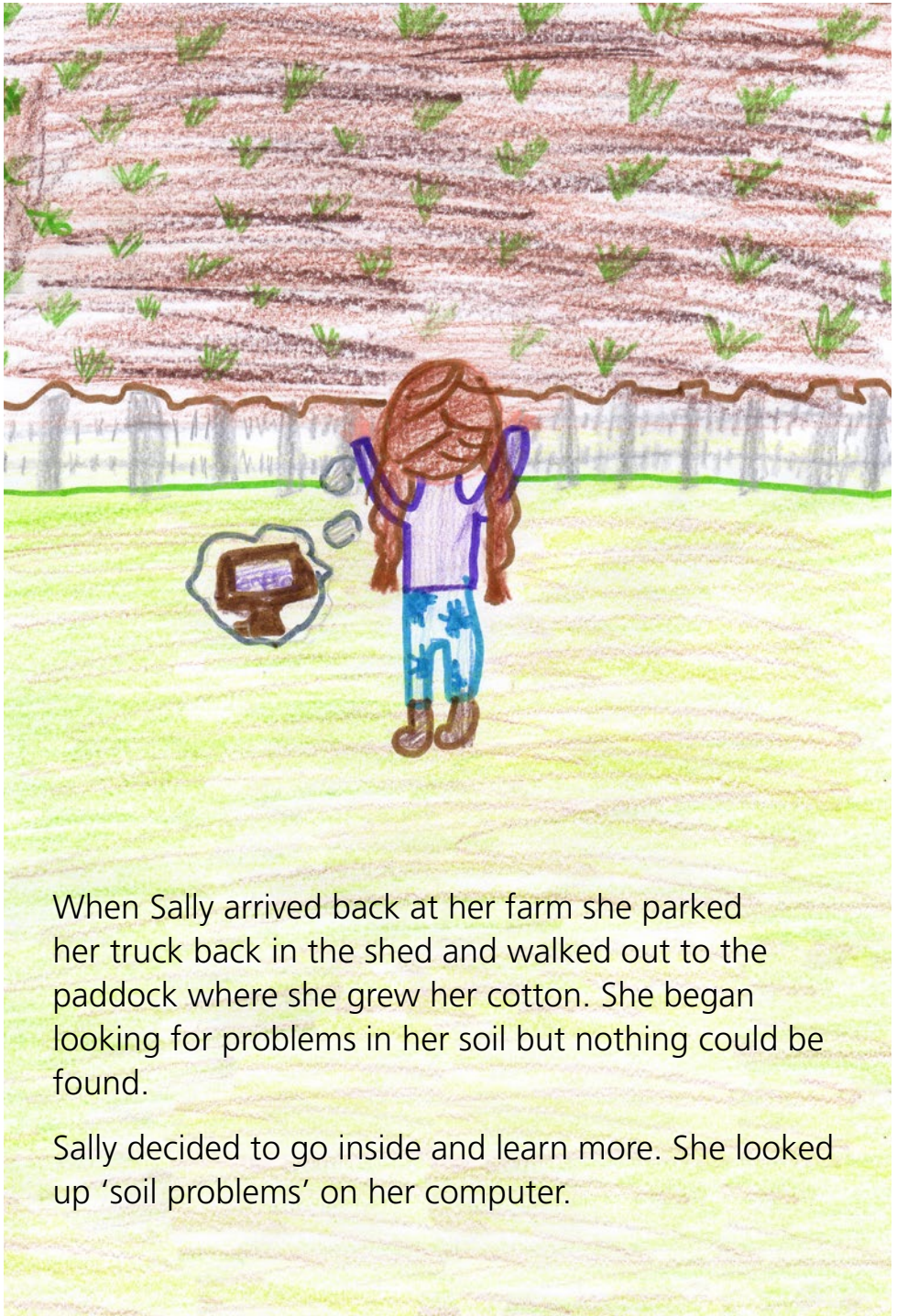


Sally was confused as she couldn't read his expression. Was he disgusted or was he amazed?

She didn't know until he yelled out, "What is this? This cotton is of very poor quality." Sally was ashamed.

Then Chris said, "Sally, if you cannot fix this you will never be allowed to show your cotton here again."





When Sally arrived back at her farm she parked her truck back in the shed and walked out to the paddock where she grew her cotton. She began looking for problems in her soil but nothing could be found.

Sally decided to go inside and learn more. She looked up 'soil problems' on her computer.

As Sally was researching she found an interesting link, so she clicked on it...

Tonnes of information came up. One thing in particular caught Sally's eye. It was called 'Rotating Crops from Cotton and Wheat Farms'.





Sally was convinced that rotating crops might be the solution to her woes. Planting cotton one year and then wheat the next might help the nutrients in her soil.

She finished her research, raced outside, jumped in her truck and drove to the Farm Supply Centre. When Sally arrived, she quickly hopped out of her truck and walked inside.

After finding the wheat seeds Sally made her way to the counter. She bought three bags and loaded them onto her truck. She was eager to head back to her farm and start sowing the seeds.





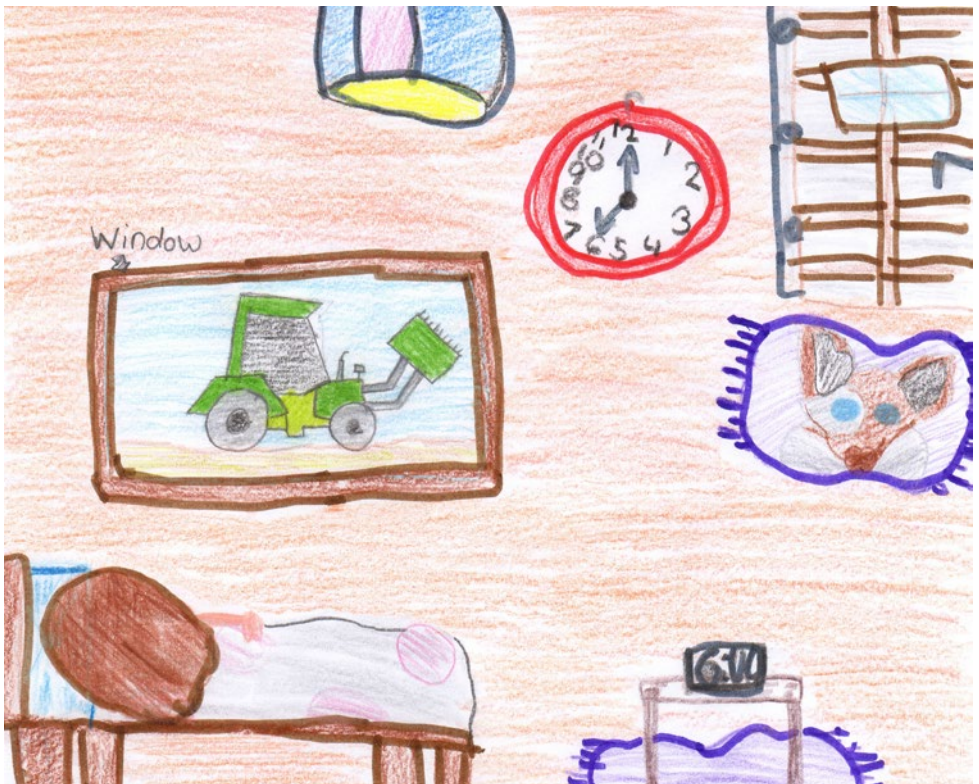
After Sally had finished planting the seeds she went inside to clean herself up. As she washed her hands the phone started ringing and it was Chris from the Cotton Gin.

Sally started to talk, but Chris interrupted her. "Hey Sally, we were really disappointed with your crop. The cotton you put in next year has to be better quality or you will be cut off!"

Sally put the phone down. She was determined to show them she was an excellent farmer. So she worked even harder to improve her soil and produce a fantastic cotton crop.

12 months later...

Sally was up at 6:00am in the morning to get out and harvest her cotton. Today was January 1st and that meant she had to take her new rotational cotton crop down to the Gin. When Sally finished harvesting her cotton, she jumped in her truck with butterflies in her tummy.





As Sally entered the Cotton Gin gates, she started to shake in her seat. After parking her truck, full of rotational cotton, she jumped out and walked over to Chris who was yelling at Mac.

Chris stopped when he saw Sally and said, "Take me to your cotton." They walked over to her cotton truck and he stopped and stared.



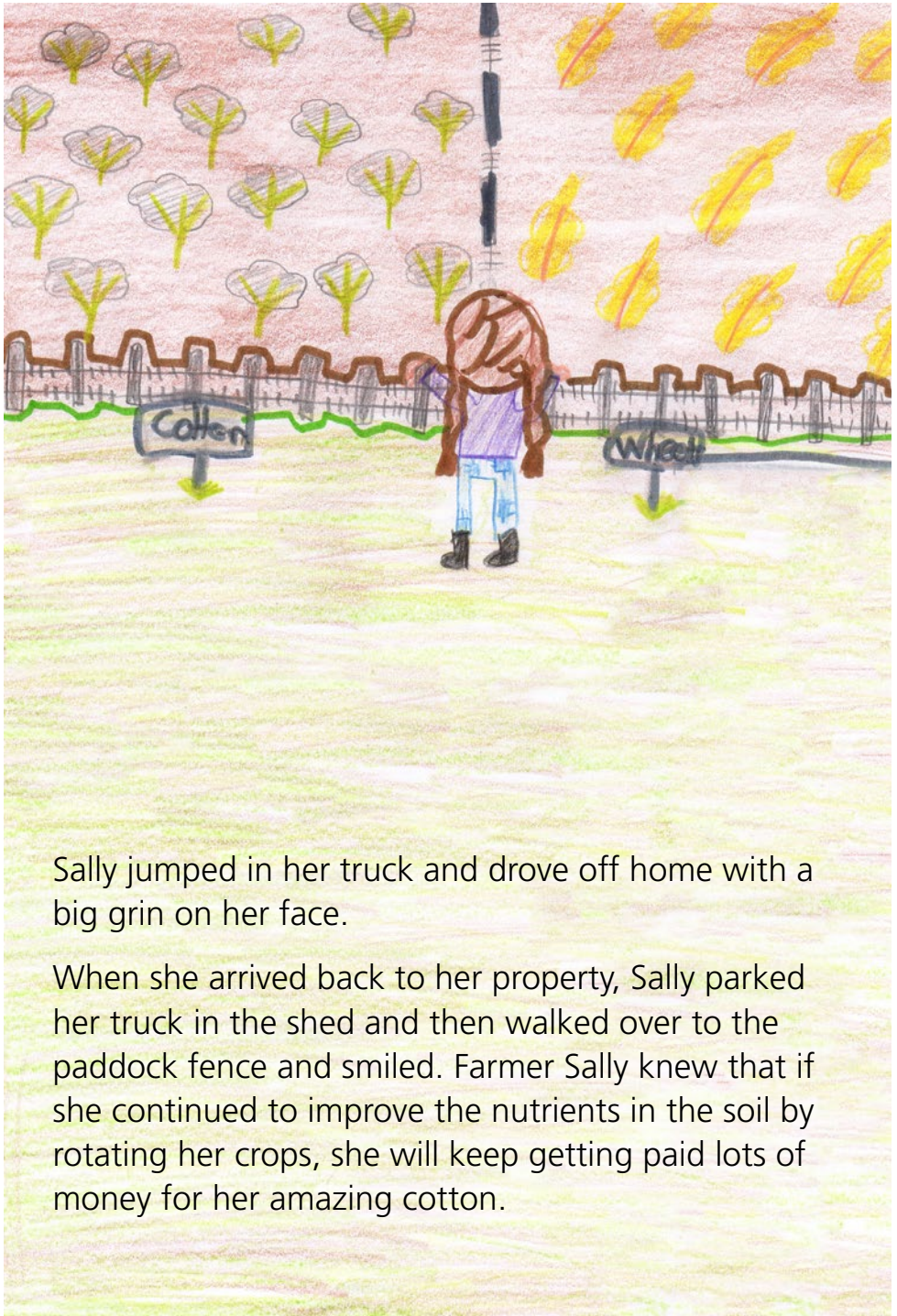


Sally was worried. She looked at Chris and thought, "Oh no... not this again!"

He examined the cotton and yelled out. "This is amazing! It's so white and soft!" Then he reached into his pocket and gave Sally her money.

A few minutes later, he loaded the cotton off the truck and took it away. Sally was so happy and excited that her cotton was so amazing.





Sally jumped in her truck and drove off home with a big grin on her face.

When she arrived back to her property, Sally parked her truck in the shed and then walked over to the paddock fence and smiled. Farmer Sally knew that if she continued to improve the nutrients in the soil by rotating her crops, she will keep getting paid lots of money for her amazing cotton.



Sarah Draheim
Narrabri Public School, Year 6 2017



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