California Connections

The Mystery of the Missing Strawberries

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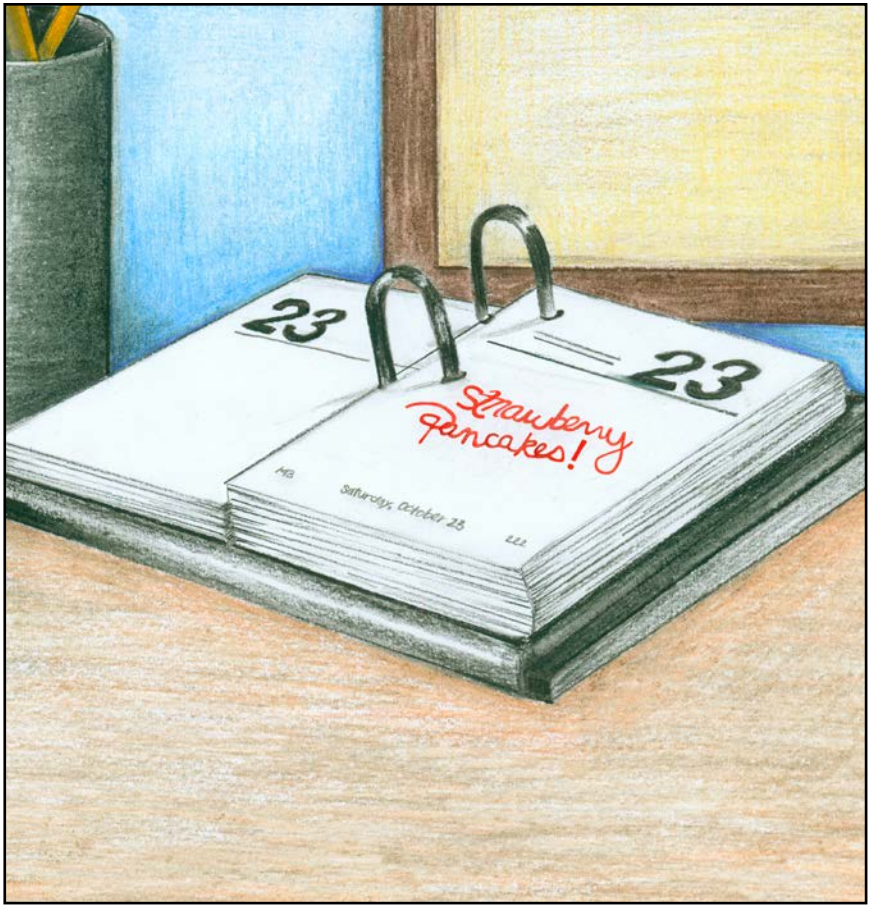
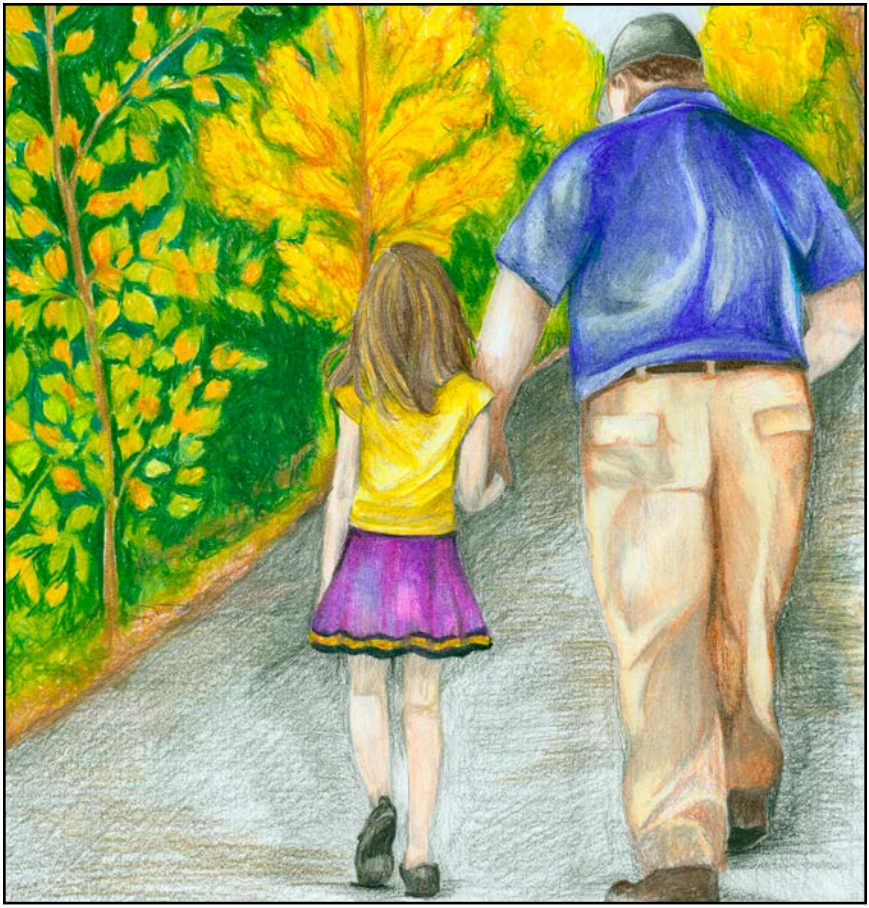
Illustrated by Sarah Pinch

California Education and the Environment Initiative
History-Social Science Standards 2.4.2. and 2.4.3.

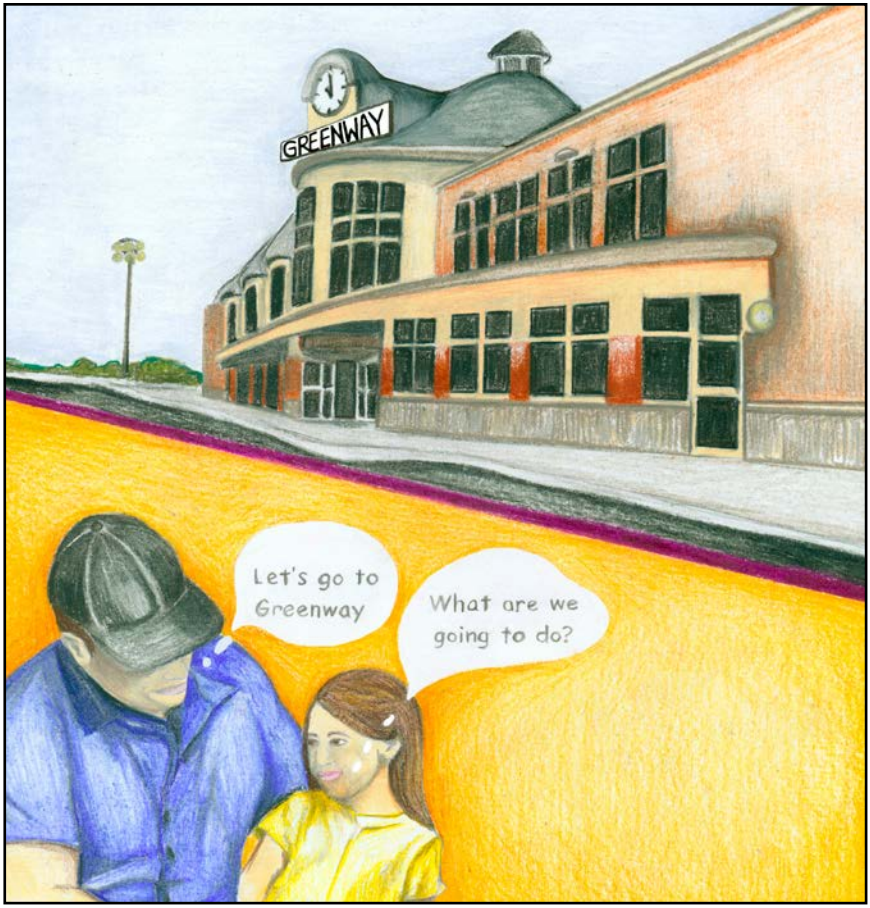


It's Saturday—and time for strawberry pancakes. Tina and her dad are going to buy some strawberries.



They walk to the fruit market down the street.

"I do not have strawberries today," says Tony, who owns the market. "I guess it's that cold weather we had last month." He loves talking about the weather and about the fruits and vegetables that he sells.



“What are we going to do?” asks Tina. “We have to find strawberries. We always have fresh strawberry pancakes on Saturdays at this time of the year.”

“Let’s go to Greenway,” says her father. “It’s a bigger store. They should have strawberries.”

Tina and her dad walk back home. They take the car and drive to Greenway. They see oranges and grapes. They see apples and bananas. But, they do not find strawberries.

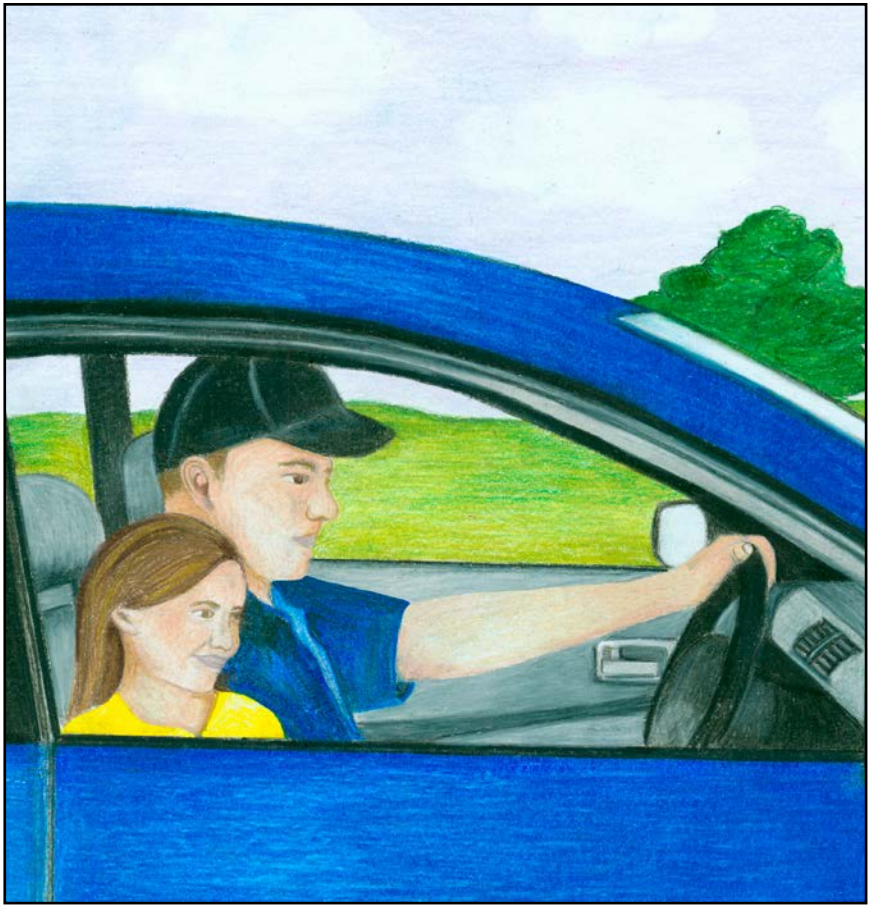
A worker at the store says, “Sorry. No strawberries were delivered yesterday.”

Tina's dad thinks about his friend Joe, who drives a truck. He wonders if Joe will know why the stores don't have strawberries.

He tells Tina not to worry. "We'll go to the superstore by the mall. I'm sure they'll have strawberries. They have everything."

By now, Tina is getting hungry. She thinks about her mom. Finding strawberries never took so long!

Tina and her dad ask about strawberries at the superstore. There aren't any! A lady buying oranges says, "I was looking for strawberries last week. They were out then, too."



“I can’t believe this,” says Tina’s dad. “What is going on?”

On the way home, Tina and her dad talk about why the stores don’t have strawberries.

“We have had a lot of rain the past few days. Maybe it has been too muddy to pick strawberries,” says Tina.

“I read that strawberries cost a lot this year. Maybe that’s why the stores aren’t buying them,” Tina’s dad says.

“I wonder what Mom will think,” says Tina. “Let’s ask her.”

When they get home, Tina's mom asks the first question, "Where are the strawberries?"

"That's what we want to know," says Tina.

"I know where I can get some strawberries," says her mom.

Tina is surprised. "You do?" she asks. "We looked all over. There are no strawberries. Where will you find them?"

Tina's mom opens the freezer. She takes out a bag of strawberries. "I put these in the freezer last month," she says. "This would be a good time to use them. We can still have strawberry pancakes for breakfast!"

Unit Title: **The Dollars and Sense of Food Production**
Grade: **2**

History-Social Science Standards 2.4.2. and 2.4.3.
Supports ELA Standard: Listening and Speaking 2.1.1.

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