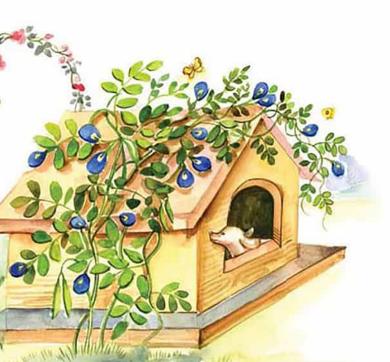


Illustrated by Thiloka Kariyapperuma



Vines like to stretch out. They can spread out along the ground or head up into the trees. They are very good at hanging on. Vines can climb up a trunk or down a branch. They can go on quite a voyage! Have you seen a tree with vines all over it? Some vines have flowers and fruit. The flowers grow first. After they bloom and drop off, the fruit grows in those spots. We can plant vines so that they cover houses and arches. They can look great, but we must manage them. Vines can wreck things as well.





Some trees get so covered that the vines take over. They can do damage and even kill the tree. They stop the tree from getting the food that it needs from the sun and the soil.

Some vines cling on with small curls. The curls seek out a frame to twist around as they grow. Once they hold tight, they cling on for life. Vines can split, just like they have in the fork of this tree. They can grow in both ways as they seek more room to take over.



Here are some vines on a farm. They have spread out on the ground. The farmer has cut a path so that they can pick the fruit that the vines grow. Here are some vines that grow food under the ground. The leaves catch the sun and send food down under the soil where there is no light.

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These are savage vines that have grown in the wild. Vines can take over a whole landscape! We need to manage them if they are from a different part of the world as they can take over.

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There are so many kinds of vines. Next time you are out on the street, by a farm or in the wild, see what kinds of vines you can spot.









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