

Read the short story. Then answer each question.

## The Story of Wise Woman

Hannah Mae loved crunchy peanuts. She ate them fresh out of the shell. When she moved to South Carolina, she brought a sack of peanuts with her. She planted them carefully in the dry soil and watered them every day.

The other children laughed at Hannah Mae. "Do you think you are a farmer? What are you trying to grow anyway?"

Hannah Mae smiled and continued watering her plants and pulling weeds. In the fall, she filled six sacks with her peanut crop. The other children were curious. "What are those funny-looking things? Are they beans? Can you eat them?"

Hannah Mae cracked open one of the dusty brown shells, giving each child one nut.

"Wow!" the children said. "These taste much better than lima beans. What are they?"

"Peanuts," Hannah Mae said.  
"They are my favorite treat. And they're good for you, too."



She gave the 6 sacks of peanuts to her mother who was shocked by how many peanuts Hannah had grown. Her mother said, "Maybe one day you will become a peanut farmer, my wise little Hannah Mae!"

Every April, Hannah Mae planted more peanuts. Her crop grew and grew. Hannah Mae sold some of her sacks of peanuts to some of the adults in the community. "Could our children also grow peanuts?" they asked.

Hannah Mae shrugged. "If they want to work hard, it is possible." She was a very wise child.

But the other children did not want to work hard. They wanted to play tag. They wanted to play hide-and-seek and swim in the river. They did not want to pull the weeds and lug heavy buckets of water from the river. Their peanut plants did not survive. They turned brown and died.

Hannah Mae continued selling her sacks of peanuts. She started crushing the peanuts, making them into peanut butter. Her friends loved her peanut butter!



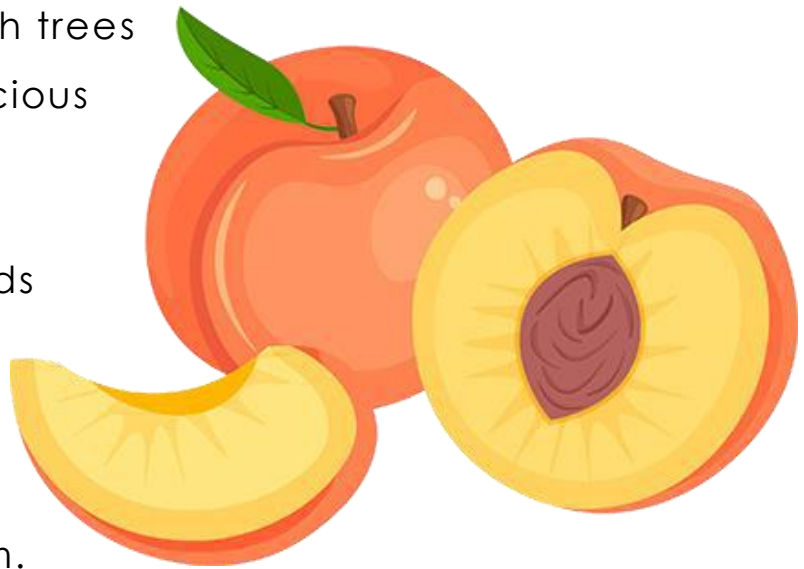
One day, Mother gave Hannah Mae a delicious piece of fruit. "It is a peach," Mother said.

Licking the juice from her chin, Hannah Mae noticed the peach had a giant pit in the middle of it. Hannah examined the pit closely; in some ways it looked like a giant peanut. Hannah became convinced that the pit was a seed. She collected all the pits that she could and planted them.

Hannah had to lug many buckets of water from the river every day, but soon her first peach trees began to grow. In the South Carolina sunshine, the trees grew and grew until she had a whole orchard of peach trees. Finally, after several years, her peach trees began to produce delicious fruit.

By then, Hannah's friends had grown up, but they all remembered those first peanuts that Hannah had given them.

It was a story they often told while they were lining up at Hannah Mae's Wise Woman Farm Market to buy peaches, peanuts and peanut butter.



**Questions:**

1. Why did Hannah Mae want to plant peanuts?

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2. What happened to the other children's peanut plants?

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3. Why did Hannah Mae start to grow peaches?

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4. Why do you think Hannah Mae became a successful farmer?

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**Answers:**

1. Why did Hannah Mae want to plant peanuts?  
Peanuts were Hannah Mae's favorite treat.
2. What happened to the other children's peanut plants?  
Their peanut plants died because they didn't water them.
3. Why did Hannah Mae start to grow peaches?  
She realized that the pit in the middle of her peach was a seed, so she planted it like she had planted her peanuts.
4. Why do you think Hannah Mae became a successful farmer.  
Hannah Mae became a successful farmer because she was wise and worked hard.