

The Unhappy Petunia

Story By: Judie Eberhardt

It was a beautiful spring day at Johnson's Garden Center. Many people were coming and going looking for their beautiful spring plants. Many flowers were sitting on the ground waiting to be taken home and put in someone's garden. There were yellow, red, pink, and white flowers. Some were tall, some were short, and some were big and round. Polly was a petunia. She waited patiently all morning for someone to pick her to go home with them, but no luck. Her friends nearby were chosen and they were much skinnier than Polly.

What's wrong with me? Polly thought to herself. Why doesn't anyone want to take me home? Polly finally figured it out. Polly the petunia was two different colors. She had mostly white, but she also had some purple on her. She also knew that her leaves were a little droopy because she didn't get enough water the day before. Polly had hoped it would rain so her leaves would perk up, but the sun shone so brightly she didn't have a chance to perk up. Mr. Johnson kept forgetting to water Polly. *How will anyone ever take me home if I don't look pretty?*

The next day, a family came by and stopped near Polly. The little girl said to her mom, "Look how pretty this flower is!" "It has two colors on it." The girl's mother agreed. "It is a very pretty flower, but it looks like it needs some water." "Can we take it home and water it?" asked the little girl. Mom agreed that they could buy Polly and some of her friends that were just put out that morning. The other flowers' leaves were very green with red flowers on them. Mr. Johnson remembered to water them. Polly was so excited that she was going to a new home and wouldn't have to worry about being watered anymore.

When Polly got to her new home, she was planted in the front of the house near an oak tree and some other flowers. The little girl helped her mom plant Polly and gave her the biggest drink of water. Everyday Polly got some water and grew up to be a beautiful purple and white petunia. No more droopy leaves for her! Polly was no longer the unhappy petunia!



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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What season of the year is it in the story?
 - A. Winter
 - B. Summer
 - C. Spring
 - D. Fall
2. Why was Polly different from the other flowers?
 - A. She had two colors.
 - B. She grew too tall.
 - C. She was too much work to take care of.
 - D. None of the above
3. What word from the story describes Polly's leaves?
 - A. Brown
 - B. Thick
 - C. Skinny
 - D. Droopy
4. Where was Polly planted?
 - A. At the back of the house
 - B. In the front of the house near an oak tree
 - C. Near a swimming pool
 - D. In a flower box
5. How would you describe Polly at the end of the story?
 - A. Happy
 - B. Sad
 - C. Lonely
 - D. Tired

The Unhappy Petunia – Answer Key

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