

# Making Juice

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Billy always loved blueberries. They were his favorite fruit. Today he was going to make juice with his uncle. His uncle liked to make juice out of everything. He made carrot juice, apple juice, mango juice, vegetable juice, and many more juices. He'd never made blueberry juice before though!



First, Billy and his uncle went to a blueberry farm. They were each given buckets. They picked for an hour and got several pounds. It was hard work picking the little berries from the trees. Now Billy understood why they were expensive in the store. These blueberries tasted better than the store, though, because they grew ripe on the tree.

Next, they had to sort and wash the fruit. Some of them still had stems or leaves. Those had to be pulled off. Then the shriveled up berries had to be thrown away. They washed the remaining berries and put them in a strainer to drip dry.

After that, they put the berries in a pot, where they mashed them up. They used a potato masher and really crushed them into a mess. It looked like pie filling to Billy. Then they got to push them through a strainer. The strainer caught most of the seeds and skins, leaving them with a small pot of dark purple juice. So much was lost if you didn't eat the skins, Billy realized. There was a huge pile of skins and seeds, nearly as much as the juice!

When they tasted it, the flavor was so strong! They could really taste the blueberries. It wasn't very sweet though. They added grape juice to the blueberry juice. Billy's uncle didn't want to ruin the berries with white sugar from a bag. It was better to use a naturally sweet juice, like apple juice, pear juice, or grape juice. They used grape juice as a sweetener, because grapes had a similar color to the blueberries.

Finally, they could drink it. It was a lot of work to make juice, but it sure was refreshing!



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

1. What is Billy making with his uncle?
  - A. cookies
  - B. lemonade
  - C. dinner
  - D. juice
  
2. What kind of juice are they making?
  - A. grape
  - B. blueberry
  - C. apple
  - D. cherry
  
3. Where do they get the blueberries?
  - A. They pick them at a farm.
  - B. They buy them at a store.
  - C. Someone gave them to them.
  - D. They grew them.
  
4. Why is Billy surprised when they make the juice?
  - A. It tastes bad.
  - B. There is a lot of waste if you don't eat the whole fruit.
  - C. It is not fun to make.
  - D. Billy's uncle doesn't know how to do it right.
  
5. What do they have to add to make it sweeter?
  - A. Sugar
  - B. Apple Juice
  - C. Grape Juice
  - D. Nothing

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