

The Greenling



ADVENTURES IN BOOKLAND

GDST



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Summary

Mr Barleycorn picks a green baby growing on his land, letting loose the incredible power of nature. When melons grow in the kitchen and apples sprout out of their television, Mrs Barleycorn says the Greenling has to go. But the bounty and beauty of nature has a strange power - the power to bring a whole community together.

Discussion Prompts

- Why was Mrs Barleycorn opposed to the arrival of the Greenling on the farm? If you could interview her at that point in the story, what do you think she would say?
- What might the members of the crowd say?
- Mrs Barleycorn says: "We should welcome this Greenling into our house, we've been living in his all along!" What does she mean?
- Is there a message to the story? What does the Greenling represent? Is he the embodiment of something bigger? If so, what?
- What do the Barleycorns learn from the Greenling?