

## Best in Garden: Sarah Cowper

Young Oliver had an extraordinary love for dirt. From a young age, Oliver was drawn to the earth beneath his feet, the rich, dark soil that held the secrets of nature. Oliver's parents, initially bewildered by their son's fascination with dirt, soon realised that it wasn't just a passing phase. No park or garden was safe from Oliver's quest for the perfect patch of soil. He would spend hours digging, discovering the hidden world of worms, bugs, and tiny plant roots.

One day, the township of Heathtown decided to organise a gardening competition. Families decorated their yards with vibrant flowers and neatly trimmed hedges, creating a picturesque scene. However, Oliver had a different vision for his family's garden.

While other kids planted delicate flowers, Oliver transformed their garden into a dirt haven. He carefully selected a variety of soils, each with unique textures and colours. Mounds of dirt became his canvas, and he sculpted a landscape that celebrated the beauty of the earth in its rawest form.

Initially puzzled by Oliver's unconventional approach, the towns folk soon found themselves enchanted by the charm of his muddy masterpiece. A simple dirt garden had never looked so interesting. Oliver's creation stood out in stark contrast to the orderly flowerbeds, and it sparked a newfound appreciation for the humble soil.

As the judges toured the gardens, they were captivated by Oliver's ingenuity. The richness of the soil, the diversity of earthy colours, and the lively creatures dwelling within, fascinated everyone. The once sceptical villagers now marvelled at the unconventional beauty Oliver had created.

In the end, the gardening competition wasn't about the most flowers or the neatest layout. It was about appreciating the natural wonders that surrounded them. Oliver, with his filthy hands and dirt-streaked clothes, emerged victorious, proving that beauty could be found in the most unexpected places.

The village of Heathtown learned a valuable lesson that day – sometimes, it takes a child with a passion for dirt to remind us of the simple joys hidden beneath the surface of our meticulously landscaped lives. And so, Oliver continued to play in the dirt, spreading joy and laughter throughout Heathtown, one muddy adventure at a time.