

# My Neighbor

*Xuiping He*

## BEFORE YOU READ:

1. How do you connect with neighbors?
2. Consider this vocabulary: **introvert**, **extrovert**, **organic**, **ignore**, **hardly**. Look up the words you don't know, or see if you can figure out the meaning from the context.

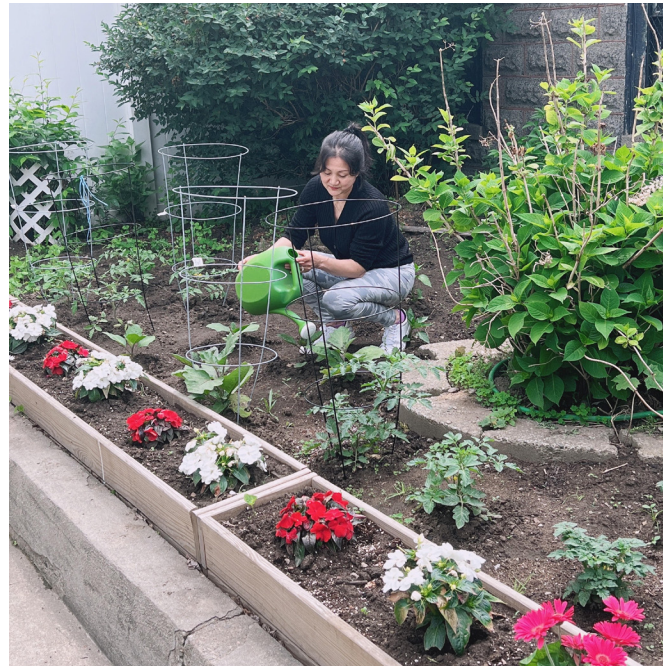
My neighbor is an older man. His name is Bill. He has lived in the neighborhood for a long time. When I first moved to Everett, every time I met him, he always had a serious face. He never said hello to me. I tried to say hello to him, but

**I wrote a note: "This is from your Chinese neighbor. These are organic vegetables. I hope you are happy every day."**

he ignored me. I thought he must be an **introvert**. Maybe he doesn't like Chinese people. I am an **extrovert**, and I thought I should make good relationships with my neighbors.

In the summer, I like to plant some vegetables in my small garden. One year, the vegetables grew very well because there was a lot of rain. I looked at the vegetables, and I had an idea. I picked some fresh vegetables and put them in a bag. I wrote a note: "This is from your Chinese neighbor. These are **organic** vegetables. I hope you are happy every day." I put the note inside the bag and left it on the neighbor's doorstep. A few days later, when I met my neighbor outside, I said hello to him. This time, he answered me politely. He did not **ignore** me.

Since then, my neighbor smiles when he sees me. In the winter of 2021, a heavy snow fell. People couldn't go outside. Everyone was busy shoveling snow. After I finished shoveling the snow in front of my house, I found Bill's door was blocked by snow. I thought, "He's old. Shoveling



must be hard for him." So I shoveled snow to help him. Bill thanked me very much.

Bill told me he lives alone. He is 80 years old. His children work out of state, far away from Boston, so he **hardly** sees his children. Since then, I have often given him good food and chatted with him. Now, my neighbor gets along well with me and my family. When you treat people with love, they will be friendly with you. Most of the time.

## AFTER YOU READ:

1. What did the writer do to connect with her neighbor?
2. Whether you are an **introvert** or an **extrovert**, what do you do to connect with people?

*Xuiping He is a student at Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center in Boston, MA. She is from China. She loves Boston. She is curious about different foods and different cultures. She loves peace and wants people to be friendly.*

