

Annie Appleseed in

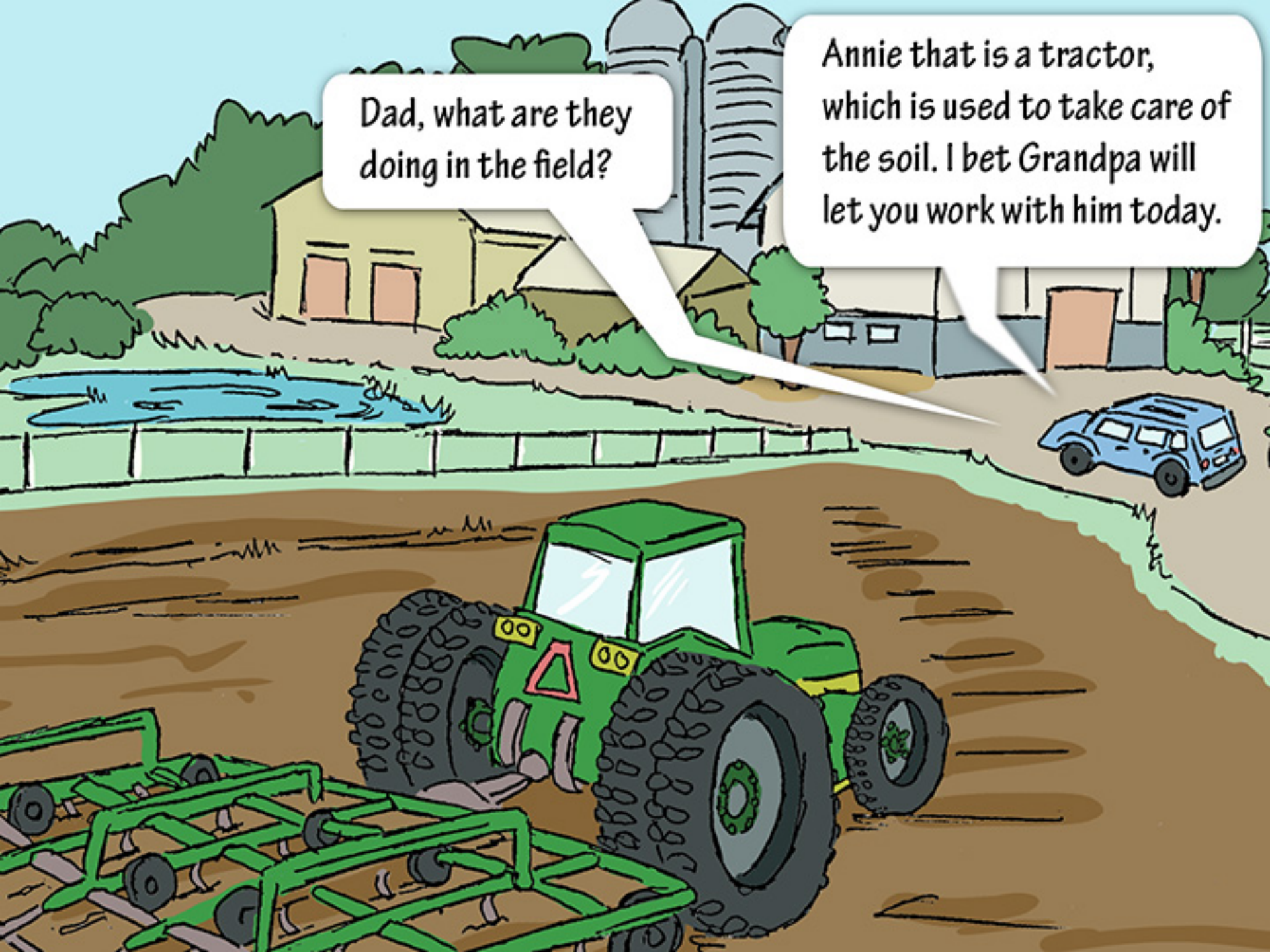


**DIGGING
INTO
SOIL**

My
American
Farm


I hope Grandpa has a fun job planned for me on the farm this summer!






Dad, what are they doing in the field?

Annie that is a tractor, which is used to take care of the soil. I bet Grandpa will let you work with him today.



Hey Annie, are you ready
for our day on the farm?

Yeah! Let's
get started.

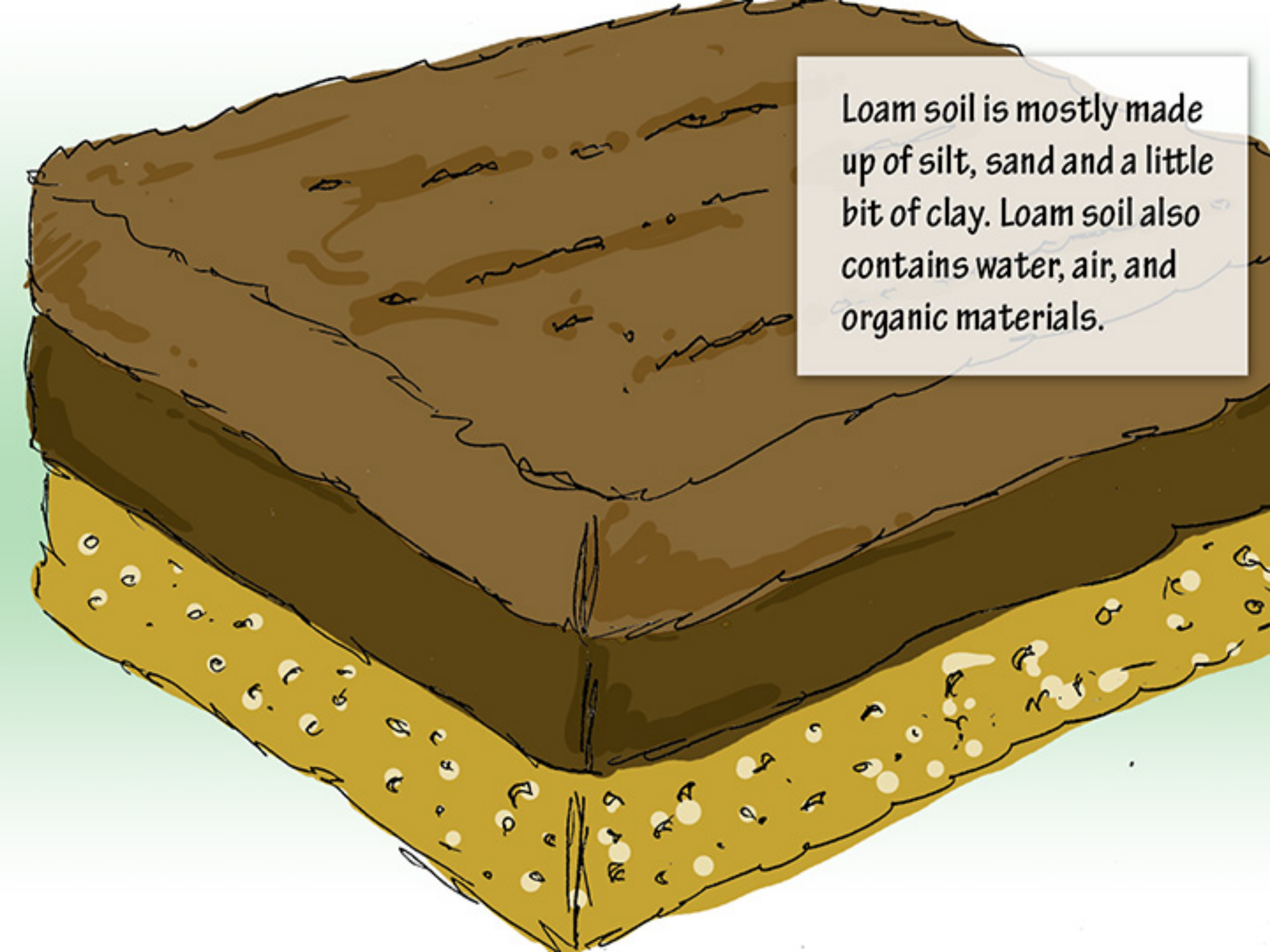


Grandpa, why is the soil a dark brownish-black color?

There are different types of soil such as sand, silt, clay, and loam.

On our farm we have a loam soil. As a farmer it is important to take proper care of our soil. Loam soil is good because it helps drain water, it is loose to give the roots room to grow, and it has organic matter needed to give the plants nutrients.





Loam soil is mostly made up of silt, sand and a little bit of clay. Loam soil also contains water, air, and organic materials.

To care for the soil we disk the land in the fall. This removes the corn stalks from the year before. Then we use a field cultivator, like the one here, to create a smooth bed for soybeans to grow.



This cultivator even helps save soil and water! It also helps control weeds. We cultivate the soil so it does not become compacted, which leaves the seed and roots with little room to grow.



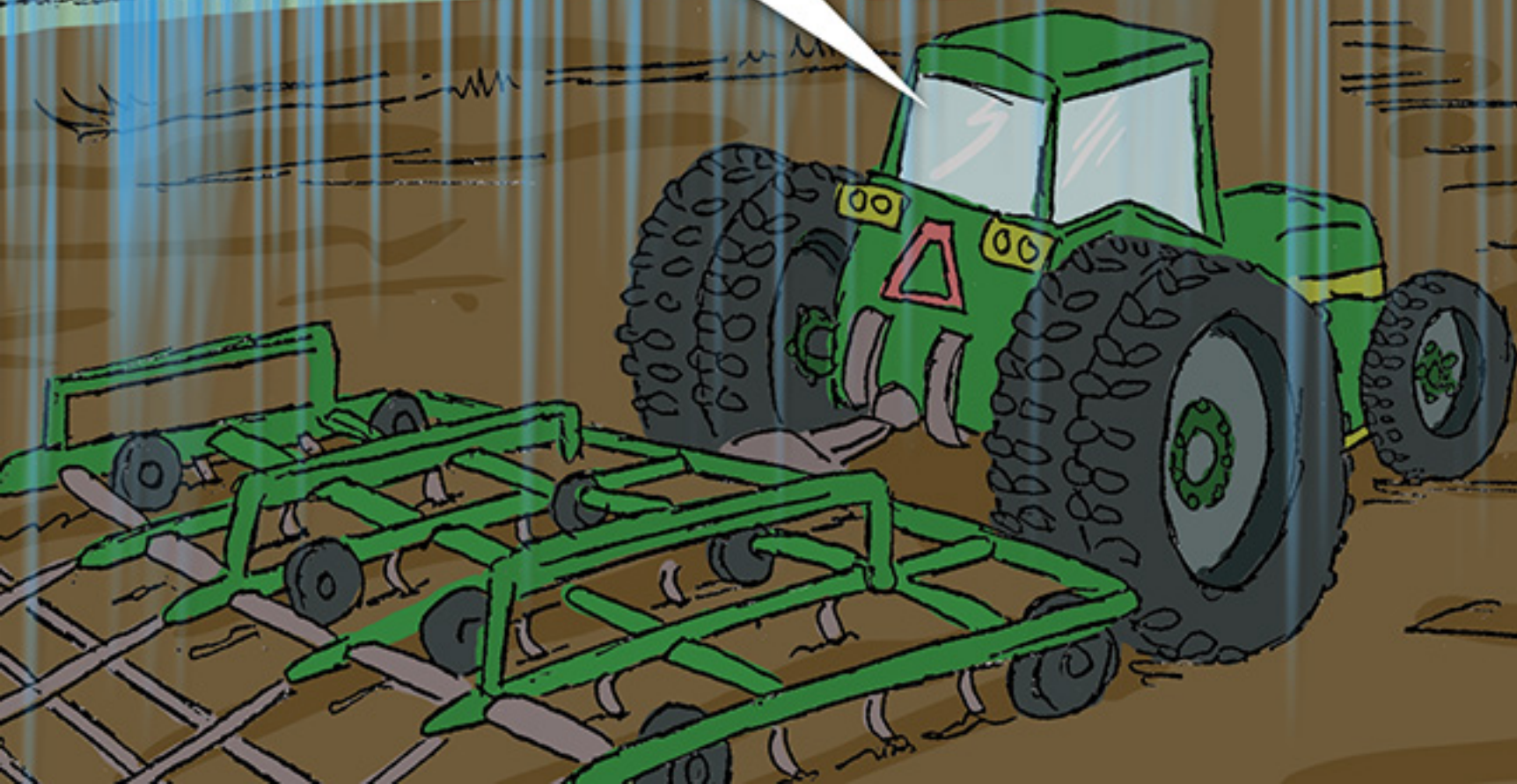


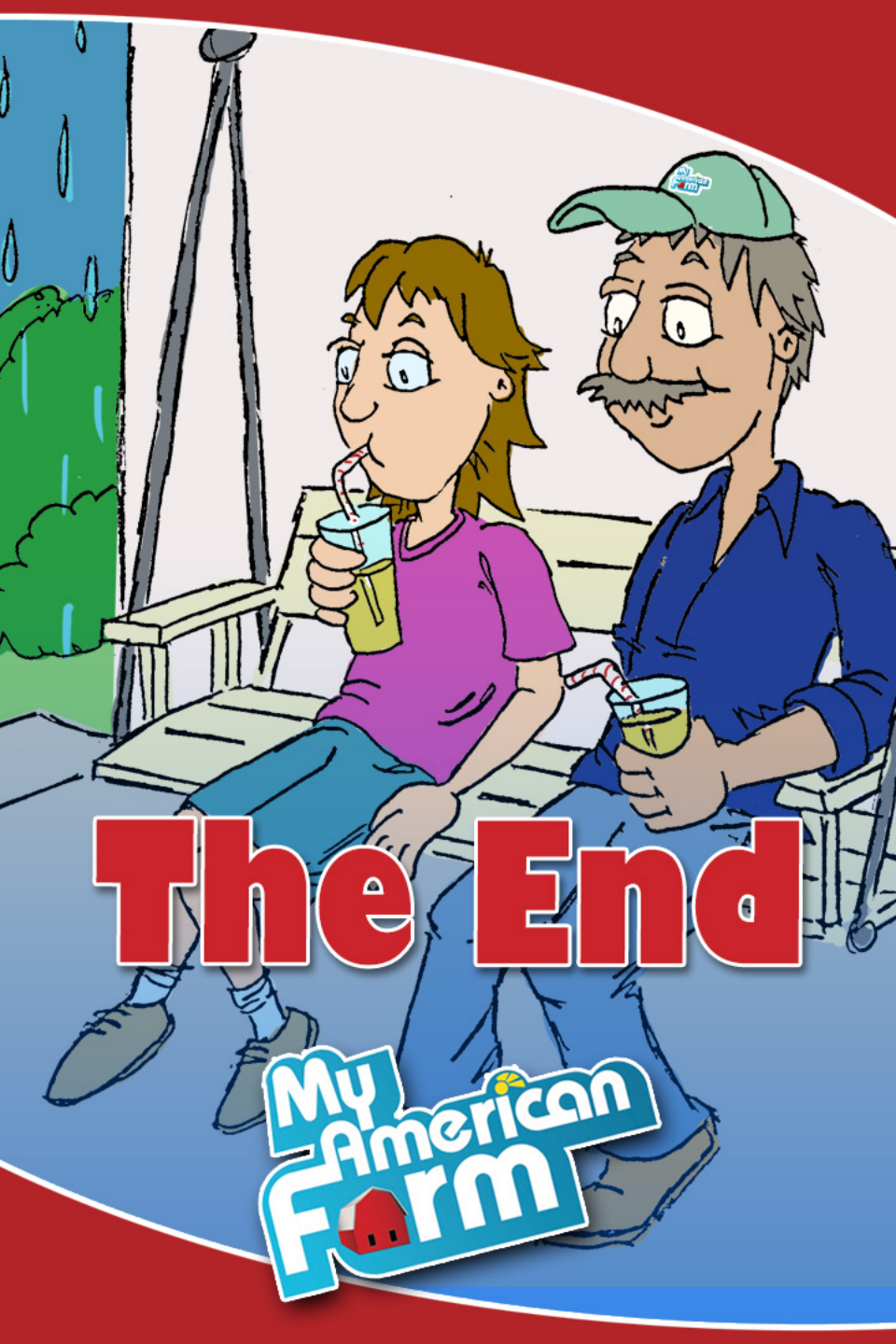
Grandpa, what helps the seeds grow?

Soybeans need nutrients just like you and me. That is why farmers often add nutrients to the soil. Soybeans need plenty of sunlight and water too!

Grandpa, it is starting to rain!

Just in time, the soil needed some water. Let's go inside and finish talking about how you will help the soil this summer as you help me farm.





The End

**My
American
Farm**