

This is a play with roots and leaves.
You'll need a seed, soil in a pot, and another person.

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This play is a part of Starters by JETco.
Bear in mind that it doesn't tell you what to do or when or how to do it.
You'll have to decide that for yourself.

To find more Starters, visit jet-co.org/starters.

A
This is a play with roots and leaves.

B
What color are the leaves?

A
What do you mean? All leaves are green.

B
I don't think that's true.

A
Well, I expect these leaves to be green.

B
Which leaves?

A
The leaves that I'm growing.

B
I've never heard of someone growing leaves before.

A
It's not the end goal. But I expect they'll be the first thing we see.

B
We?

A
Well, we're both here aren't we? You wouldn't let this thing die, would you?

B
Not intentionally. But you're the person who is specifically going to make sure it doesn't die, right?

A
Yeah. But you'll help too, right?

B
Yeah. Of course. It's just water and sunlight?

A
Water and sunlight.

B
How often?

A
Every four or five days. Maybe every week. I don't know. I'll look it up.

B
What's the seed?

A
It's something I've always wanted to try growing. But I was always afraid to try it alone. So thank you for helping me be not alone.

B
You won't tell me what it is though.

A
That's a surprise. Make sure it doesn't die and you'll find out.

B
This may sound a little dumb, but whenever I plant something, I like to take a moment before I put it in the ground or the dirt or whatever to try and put something into the seed. Like a single hope or something like that. Something that I want to take root and sprout and hopefully grow and bloom. It's a dumb metaphor, but you'll forget about so quickly anyway and it feels nice in the moment.

A
You go first.

B
You haven't planted the seed yet?

A
Nope. Just got this pot full of dirt. I've got the seeds right here.

B
Okay. Can I have one?

A
Here you go.

B
Alright. I've wished my wish.

A
Shall I add one too?

B
Why not?

A
Alright. I've wished my wish.

B
Then, into the ground it goes.

A
Into the ground. And then?

B
Water and sunlight.

A
I thought you said you didn't like to grow things.

B
Did you hear me say that?

A
I guess I didn't.

B
I don't like being in charge of growing things. But I like helping things grow.

A
This is my least favorite part.

B
The waiting?

A
Yes.

B
Why didn't you buy a flower that had already sprouted?

A
How do you know we're growing a flower?

B
I guess I don't.

A

When I sit in the store looking at all the plants and flowers and vines that I might buy, I always notice the one leaf that has fallen into the soil or the one stem that has gone a little brown. And I always wonder if it's supposed to look like that or if it's been just a bit neglected or if it's already dead and I'm buying what is really a former plant and is actually not a real plant at all. And I usually just buy one anyway. But I wanted to see if I could do a better job myself.

B

Do you think you will?

A

It's just water and sunlight, right?

B

Water and sunlight.

A

What can go wrong?

B

The plant could die.

A

There are other plants.

B

You won't be sad?

A

No. Will you? We both just planted a wish into the ground.

B

No. There are other seeds.

A

Sometimes I wonder if all this talking is good for the plant. They like carbon dioxide, right?

B

Sort of like playing Mozart for babies.

A

I don't know if I like that analogy.

B

Well, carbon dioxide is certainly not on the list.

A
The list?

B
Water and sunlight.

A
Water and sunlight indeed.

B
So, what do we do now?

A
We set it on the windowsill. A south-facing window if we can.

B
Done.

A
And we give it a little drink.

B
Done.

A
And we wait.

B
For green leaves.