

The Super Grow Machine

by Pamela Maynard

“Maybe this piece will help. I read a book about this in Science Club. It was all kind of complicated, but I think this is how they did it. Miranda, can you hand me that switch on the shelf please?”



Story Illustration by: Lisa M. Griffin

For about an hour, Steve fitted, screwed, hammered and designed his grow machine. He used an old battery from the riding lawn mower to power the lights and tray. Wiping his hands on his pants, Steve stepped back to admire his work. The whole machine looked like a giant pizza oven. “Let’s test it out!”

Steve took a rag from the workbench and placed it on the shiny plate inside the large contraption. “I think it’s this button,” Steve said as he pushed a big red button taken from a toy workbench that had seen better days. “OK, are you ready Miranda?”

“I guess,” she replied. “I hope you know what you are doing.” Miranda took a few steps back before Steve could start his machine.

Steve pushed the red button and sparks flew off the tray and onto Steve’s pant leg. The brightest spark caused a small fire to break out on Steve’s jeans.

“Quick, Steve, roll on the ground,” Miranda shouted as she pushed him to the floor. Luckily, the fire went out as quick as it started, only leaving a black-rimmed hole on the leg of Steve’s jeans.

“Wow, that was a close one,” Steve sighed heavily. “What did I do wrong?” he asked aloud. “Let me trade this one for that piece. Maybe that will help.” Steve fiddled and screwed and continued talking to himself. After about 15 minutes, Steve declared the machine ready.