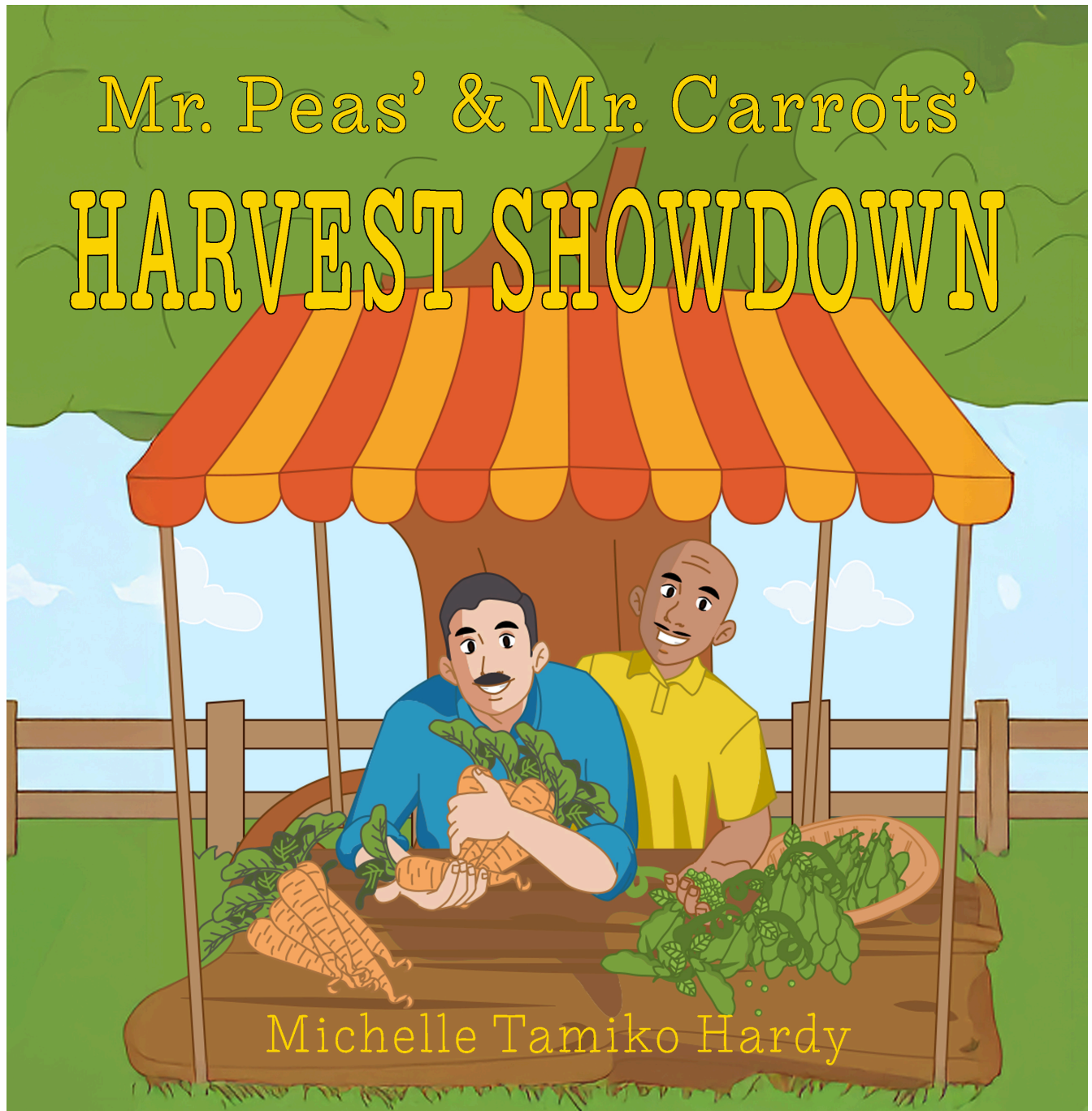


Mr. Peas' & Mr. Carrots' HARVEST SHOWDOWN



Michelle Tamiko Hardy

**Mr. Peas'
and
Mr. Carrots'
Harvest Showdown**

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*This book is dedicated to my
grandchildren Alexander Barrera,
Nevaeh Tarver, and Tala Pongyan...
I love you*



Mr. Peas feels he's the
greatest grower of fresh
peas in all the land.



Mr. Carrots feels he's
growing the best crop
with ten bushels of
carrots in his hands.



Mr. Carrots bends down
to use his harvesting
tools, both short and
long.



"I grow peas because they make you big and strong," Mr. Peas proudly says.



"I am a better farmer than Mr. Peas because I pick carrots all day long," Mr. Carrots boasts.



"I also work all day long, but I'm a better farmer because when I pick my peas I sing a beautiful song," says Mr. Peas.



"I think I'm a better farmer because my carrots are vibrant and orange with bright green stems," says Mr. Carrots.



"They grow from the ground and not from tree limbs," Mr. Carrots brags.



"I'm a better farmer because I bring a parrot to talk to the people who buy my carrots at the farmer's market," Mr. Carrots proudly says.



With a smirk on his face, Mr. Peas says, "I'm a better farmer because I have a dancing ferret to entertain the people who buy *my* peas at the farmer's market."



"We'll see who's better
when the final vote
comes in," says Mr. Peas.



"I'm counting on brewing
up some carrot juice to
celebrate in the end,"
says Mr. Carrots.



"All the votes for the Harvest Showdown have been tallied!" the farmer's market judge announces.



"It looks like we have a winner!" the judge declares as they proudly raise the shiny golden trophy high up into the air.



Mr. Peas holds his
bushel nervously.



Mr. Carrots is also nervous, but knows he and the other farmers should be proud because they all put in their best efforts.



Mr. Beets has been waiting for this moment for a long time and hopes his beets will win.



Finally, the time has come.
The farmer's market judge
says very loudly, "And
the winner is...



...Mr. Beets!"



"Congratulations!" shouts
Mr. Peas and Mr. Carrots.



"Thank you!" says a very proud Mr. Beets as he shakes both Mr. Peas' and Mr. Carrots' hands.

In life, we will think we are better than someone who is different than we are, but we are all the same. We have different gifts we can offer and share with the world. We are all the same. No better, no worse. You may not win the race you are in, but be happy for the winner. It was their turn.



Mr. Peas' and Mr. Carrots' Harvest Showdown is a children's story about a friendly competition between Mr. Peas, Mr. Carrots, and Mr. Beets to determine who is the best farmer, ultimately highlighting the value of teamwork and celebrating individual differences.



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