



Neighborhood Network

Miguel Alvarado opened the front door of his family farmhouse in Sunnyvale, California and stepped outside. He stretched his tired, 57-year-old body as he looked at the beautiful land in front of him. The first light of the morning was shining on a row of cherry trees. They separated the small house from Miguel's five **acres** of strawberry fields. The trees were the only ones left from what used to be a huge **orchard**. Miguel remembered the day his father had planted the fruit trees over 40 years ago. That was just a few years before the Santa Clara Valley got its new name. When Miguel was a boy, the southern part of the San Francisco Bay Area was still known as "The Valley of Heart's Delight ⁱ" But since the early 1980s, the whole world called it Silicon Valley. Miguel's little **urban farm** was one of only a handful left in Sunnyvale. Most of the other landowners had **cached out**, including the Green family who used to own the land on both sides of Miguel's place. Miguel got angry when he thought about what the computer and high-tech industry had done to the landscape. His dark brown eyes looked to the west. He saw the big, old ranch house that belonged to his neighbor and friend, Nathan Green. Nathan's fa-

The Valley of Heart's Delight

ist eine andere Bezeichnung für **Silicon Valley**, das das Santa Clara Valley und einen Teil von San Francisco umfasst. Silicon Valley (silicon = Silizium) ist heute einer der wichtigsten Standorte der Computertechnologie und High-Tech-Industrie.



ther, Ethan, had sold most of the 500 acres of his ranch lands to property investors in the late 70s and made a fortune. Miguel then looked to the east and stared at the huge building next to his property. It was the **headquarters** of Martin-Woods Network Systems. Miguel didn't know – or care about – exactly what work the company did. He only knew that MWNS, Inc. was involved in the computer industry. It belonged to a woman he hated with all his heart, Sophie Martin-Woods. She was responsible for the construction of the new main building. It was so big and tall that the shadow from



acre	Hektar
orchard	Obstplantage
delight	Entzücken
urban farm	städtischer Bauernhof
to cash out	Vermögen verkaufen
headquarters	Firmenhauptsitz
shade	Schatten
pick-your-own	Selbstpflück-

its glass walls kept his strawberries in the **shade** for most of the morning. That reminded Miguel that it was time to start the long work day. Impatiently, he went back into the house to call his children. “Jose? Carmelita? Get moving! The first **pick-your-own** customers will be here soon!”

The sleepy voice of Miguel's 17-year-old son answered from the kitchen. “Oh, Dad, come on, it's Saturday! And by the way, when are you going to start calling me Joe like everyone else does?” “Never, Jose! Now where's your sister?”

“Carmelita is already outside. Rosa's not feeling well, so Carmelita is feeding the chickens and Hera.”

Hera was Carmelita's dog, a six-month-old Labrador Retriever. “What's wrong with your mom? Has she got a headache again?” “Rosa is NOT my mother! She's my stepmother,” Joe said angrily. “Carmelita's too,” he added, more calmly. He didn't want to think about his mom right now. It hurt too much.

Exercise 1: Choose the right word. Lesen Sie weiter und unterstreichen Sie das richtige Wort!

Joe also didn't 1. **like** / **want** to have another 2. **fight** / **argue** with his dad, especially today. He was planning to 3. **ask** / **question** his father if he could stop 4. **job** / **work** earlier than usual. He had **tons of** 5. **housework** / **homework** to do for school and wanted to go to a study group at a friend's house.

Lisa was going to be there. She was Sophie Martin-Woods's pretty, 16-year-old daughter. Even though they were still "just friends" lately they had started flirting with each other a little bit. But their parents couldn't know about that!

"Dad! Joe! Come quickly! Something terrible has happened!"

14-year-old Carmelita ran into the house. Her beautiful eyes were filled with tears, and her face was white with shock. What worried Miguel the most, though, was his daughter's hands. They were covered in blood!

"Sweetheart, what's wrong?

Have you hurt yourself?" Miguel

asked and put an arm around her shaking shoulders.

"No, it's Hera – and the **marigolds** you planted around the strawberry fields. Oh Daddy, I. I can't say it! Just come with me!"



tons of	jede Menge
marigold	Ringelblume
to curse	fluchen
organic farming	biologische Landwirtschaft
Madre de Dios (Spanish)	Mutter Gottes

Carmelita used one of her hands to try to wipe away the tears, and this left bloody streaks on her face. Without another word, she turned and ran back outside. Her dad and brother ran behind her through the cherry trees and out to the fields. When they arrived, the sight in front of them made Miguel fall to his knees and begin **cursing** in Spanish. Yesterday, hundreds of yellow and orange marigolds had surrounded his fields of bright red berries. The flowers were part of Miguel's **organic farming** ⁱ methods. Marigolds kept certain harmful insects and dust away from the fruit. But his marigolds wouldn't be doing that anymore. Someone had pulled each and every flower out of the ground and broken the plants in half. It was an act of cruel vandalism, and it would cost Miguel a lot of time and money to re-plant with mature flowers. But why hadn't Hera warned them? Even though she was so young, Hera was already a great watch dog. Then he remembered what else Carmelita had said – and the blood on her hands. "**Madre de Dios**," he whispered.

Organic farming (ökologische Landwirtschaft, Ökolandbau) ist eine Form der Landwirtschaft, die unter anderem auf chemische Düngung und Gentechnik verzichtet. Die Nachfrage nach „Bio-Produkten“ wächst weltweit stetig.



Exercise 2: Prepositions. Lesen Sie weiter und setzen Sie die richtigen Präpositionen ein!

In on of over off away

Miguel took his eyes 1. _____ the dead flowers
and saw his children a short distance 2. _____ .