

# Diary of a Nectarine Tree

BY REBECCA GONZALEZ

4th GRADE STATE WINNER

Our Lady of Fatima School | Amanda Harvey, Teacher  
STANISLAUS COUNTY

Illustrated by: Valley High School



**APRIL 20:**

Hello! You may not know me. I'm a nectarine tree by the name of Ned. I'm new on the farm. For some reason, I have weird bud-things on my branches.

**APRIL 30:**

Hey! It turns out that those buds were flowers! I'm in bloom! I like this. When the petals fall off, it tickles.





# MAY 6th

MAY 6:

Oh no! Where the flowers used to be, now I have little green balls!  
What is happening to me?!?

NEED



MAY 12:

False alarm. This is actually a good thing!  
I have fruit! The nectarines are as smooth as glass.



**MAY 26:**

I heard from a squirrel, which is terrible for orchards but good for information, that the farmers are almost ready to harvest! Yippie! My branches are getting heavy!



**JUNE 8:**

Lots of activity here. People are coming by and picking our nectarines. I feel like we're on a boat in an earthquake. Here's a person now! UHGGG!!! I feel SUPER seasick! I think I'll have to stop writing this entry in my journal.

**JUNE 27:**

PICKING is still going strong! I'm wondering when they'll be done! At least I'm over getting sick when I'm being picked.

**JULY 20:**

It's super-hot! I wish I could have some lemonade! But hey, I have a new neighbor: Pomello the pomegranate tree! She's nice. Always up to discuss news from the squirrels.



## AUGUST 2:

Season for picking is over and it is quiet as a mouse hole here. Pomello said, "Ahh. It's like my old garden. I was raised in a backyard pot, you know."

Then she added, "It was a nice, quiet life, but I admit it was a tad boring."

P.S. I am almost done producing!



AUGUST 27:

Pomello is getting restless. I don't know what's going on! All she told me last night was winter is coming and the bounty of which she shall bring forth is coming around the bend. I didn't understand. What bounty? What bend? What was winter? All I could reply was, "This winter thing sounds bad. Is it?"

Pomello answered, "Maybe for you."



**SEPTEMBER 10:**

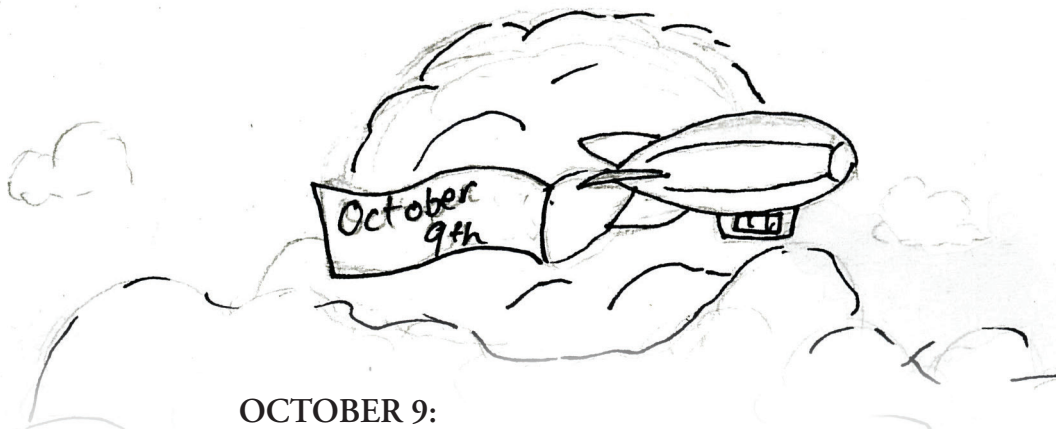
BRRRR!!!!!! It is getting as cold as the Himalayas!  
I wish I had fur like the squirrels and gophers.

**SEPTEMBER 25:**

Something is going on with Pomello. I think she  
is getting fruit! She has little balls on her branches  
like I did. I wonder what a pomegranate looks like.

 September 10th





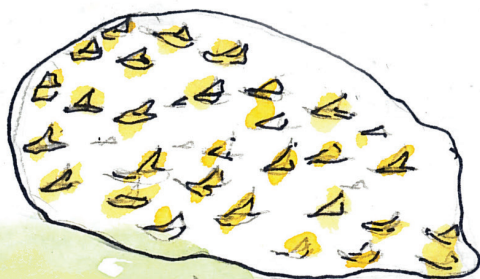
### OCTOBER 9:

I was right! Now she has red fruit shaped like a top. The workers are harvesting right now! I think now that I have lost my leaves, I will settle down for a nice long nap.

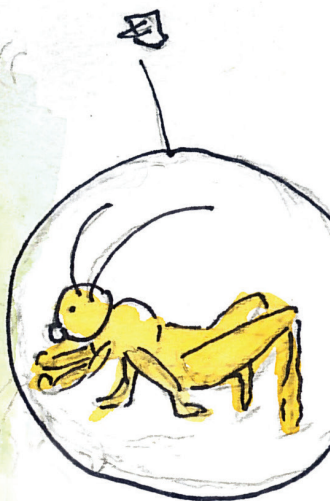


## MARCH 10:

Good morning! I just woke up! Something is amiss here. There is a big cloud hovering over the farm! But it can't be a rain cloud. Oh my! It's a cloud of locusts! Locusts live in swarms that feed on crops, trees, and other plants.



They are sort of like flying crickets but are more devastating. They can eat 160,000 tons of food each day.



This amount of food would feed 800,000 people for a whole year. It can lead to famine if they eat too much. The farm is in trouble!

**MARCH 21:**

Oh no! The locusts have left, but the farm is in distress. I feel like a turkey with no feathers. I wish I had my leaves back.

**APRIL 3:**

Good news! The farm is back to normal. There is a rumor that an apricot tree is coming. I can't wait for my new friend.





## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

### Rebecca Gonzalez

9 years old

The past sparked Rebecca's idea for the *Diary of a Nectarine Tree*. Inspired by previous *Imagine this...* stories and other books that incorporated a diary-type theme, she decided to use a similar writing format, and tell a tale through the day-in-the-life, or season-in-the-life of a specific fruit, in this case, the nectarine.

Rebecca felt like her fingers knew the story as the words came easily. Although she never considered herself a writer, she discovered writing can be enjoyable! Her favorite part of the writing process was incorporating suspense into the story, as she did when the locusts threatened the nectarine tree. She hopes readers will learn that they can overcome hard challenges even when nearly everything is destroyed.

Rebecca is excited to see how the illustrators interpret her story and to read the other stories published alongside hers.



## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

### Gemmel Coloma

*Valley High School | Santos Morales, Art Teacher*

Sophomore Gemmel Coloma has certainly eaten nectarines, but he wasn't entirely familiar with the process of how the tree produces the fruit, or even what a nectarine tree looked like! Gemmel learned about the California commodity as he illustrated *Diary of a Nectarine Tree*. Initial inspiration came from researching the look and the shape of nectarine trees as well as the harvest process. He even referenced other children's books for ideas. Using watercolors to tell the story, Gemmel found it interesting and exciting to depict life from the point of view of one of California's stone fruits.