It was spring again!
Simon was ready to plant his carrots, as every year.
The first thing he did was to build a fence
around his vegetable garden.
Then, he prepared the soil...

Simon, the rabbit, planted many carrots but somebody suggested
him to put also letuces, another one advised him to plant tomatoes,
and also eggplants... so the vegetable garden grew and filled
not only with vegetables but also with some special farmers:
the mouse, the hen, the goat, the little pig, the fox...
The 10th International Compostela Prize for Picture Books
is a compliment about the collective work, the coexistence
in harmony and in contact with nature.

Rocio Alejandro’s first book as author and illustrator is inspired
by the community garden in her neighborhood. It emphasizes
the narrative progression of the text, that begins counting
the necessary steps to create an orchard. With an accumulative
structure, the characters are successively introduced into the story.

The illustrations, in orange and ocher tones in coherence
with the scene where this tale takes place, are elaborated
with the technique of stamping using inked stamps: it’s a very
laborious process because each part of every character and object
represented is printed individually with its corresponding stamps.

Due to the universal nature of this proposal, its clear ecological
intention and the different levels of reading that it provides,
“Simon’s vegetable garden” is a book with several interpretations
despite of its apparent simplicity.