

Jayden's Impossible Garden
Discussion Guide
Grades PreK – 4th

Before Reading: to activate schema, build background knowledge, and set a purpose.

- Preview the cover & illustrations to predict the story of Jayden & his garden.
- Preview the vocabulary of the book, especially the various listed flowers & animals.
- Predict what is meant by the title, *Jayden's Impossible Garden*. What is likely “impossible?”

During Reading: to engage students, check for understanding, and make connections.

- Why do you think Jayden is so interested in nature?
- Why do you think that Jayden’s mother keeps telling him, “There’s no nature here in the middle of the city.”
- Describe how Jayden & Mr. Curtis discovered their same love of nature.
- How did Jayden & Mr. Curtis work together to show the neighborhood & Jayden’s mother what could be done to build “the magical secret fort garden” in the middle of the city?

After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.

- Ask: Could you do something similar to Jayden & Mr. Curtis in your own neighborhood?
- What did you learn about what nature is all around you in your community? Think flowers, plants, and animals.
- **Extension:** How can you get involved in your community to clean up & create a magical secret fort garden? For younger students, encourage them to draw a picture to accompany their writing.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, or content.