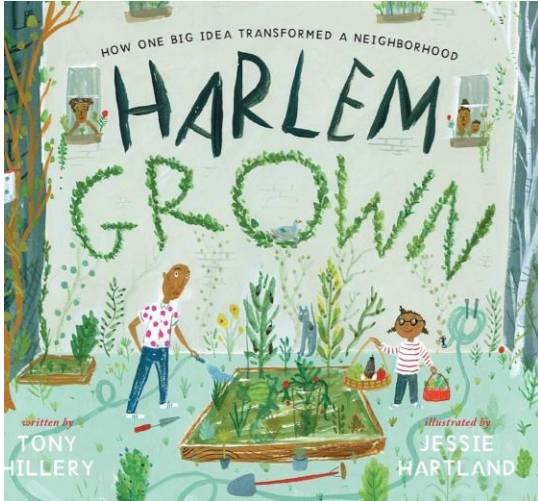


## Discussion Guide for Families



### **Harlem Grown: How One Big Idea Transformed A Neighborhood**

*Author:* Mia Wenjen

*Illustrator:* Robert Sae-Heng

**Themes:** Environment and Sustainability

**Book Brief:** *Harlem Grown* shares the true story of how Tony Hillery and students transformed an abandoned lot in New York City into a thriving garden that provides fresh food for the community. This inspiring tale shows how teamwork and determination can turn a neglected space into a source of beauty, healthy food, and hope.

### **READ ALOUD**

#### **Before Reading: Build Background**

- Ask your child “Do you know some of the fruits & vegetables that can be grown in a garden?”

#### **While Reading: Make Connections**

- Why did Mr. Tony think that the vacant lot would make a good neighborhood garden?
- Are the illustrations & stories within the story helpful in understanding the concepts of what is needed to cleanup & start a community garden? Why?
- What are you learning about food & community being so important to the idea of working together on a neighborhood garden?

#### **After Reading: Ask Questions**

- What are some of your favorite fruits and vegetables?

### **RELATED ACTIVITIES**

#### **If your child enjoyed this book, consider:**

- Encourage them to talk about it during other conversations.
- Check out RIF’s [Sustainable Futures](#) center to learn more about sustainability with related books and resources.