

Jayden's Impossible Garden

A RIF GUIDE FOR FAMILIES

Themes: Friendship, Imagination, Perseverance

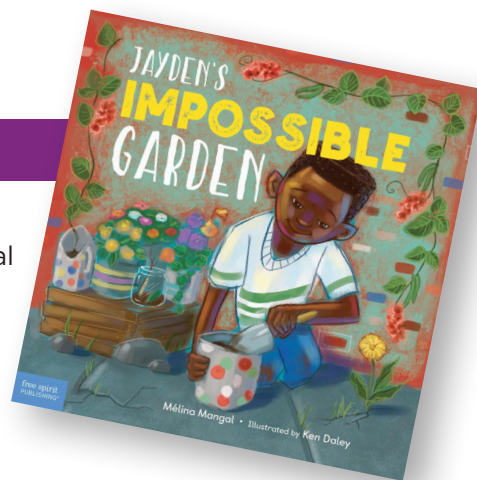
Book Brief: Jayden notices nature all around his busy city neighborhood, but his Mama disagrees. Determined to prove her wrong, he starts a community garden with help from his friend Mr. Curtis, bringing neighbors—and Mama—together to experience nature's magic in the city.

Author:

Mélinda Mangal

Illustrator:

Ken Daley



TIME TO READ!



Before: Read the title of the story and look at the cover. Ask your child what they think will happen in the story.

During: As you read, ask, “How do you think Jayden will find nature in the city?”

After, ask questions:

- What did Jayden and Mr. Curtis have in common?
- How did they make a garden?
- Why do you think they made a garden?

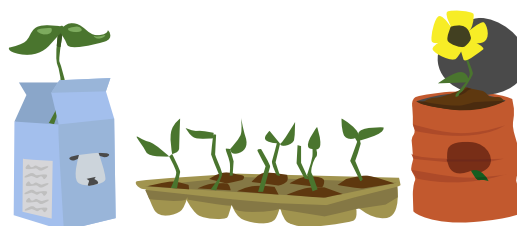
INTENTIONAL TALK

Thinking Beyond The Text- An important skill for new readers to develop is to make connections between what they are reading and the world around them. In this way they bring their own thoughts to what they are reading and develop a greater understanding of a story or text. It also helps them share their thoughts and ideas with others. As you read *Jayden's Impossible Garden*,

encourage your child to find a part of the story that reminds them of your own family, or even things they've heard or seen before reading this book. If you speak another language at home, go through the book and share the names of the vegetables in your home language. This will help them make connections and see how the book fits into their world and create meaning with the story.

RELATED ACTIVITIES

Jayden made a magical fort garden out of cardboard boxes and recycled materials. Using what you can find around the house and in your recycling (e.g., *cardboard boxes, milk cartons, egg cartons*) create your own magical fort garden. Talk about what you would grow in your garden. If possible, plant seeds to bring your magical fort garden to life.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



OTHER BOOKS BY MÉLINDA MANGAL

- [Birds Sing Their Words \(2025\)](#)
- [Jayden's Secret Ingredient \(2023\)](#)
- [The Vast Wonder of the World \(2018\)](#)