

# First PEAS to the Table

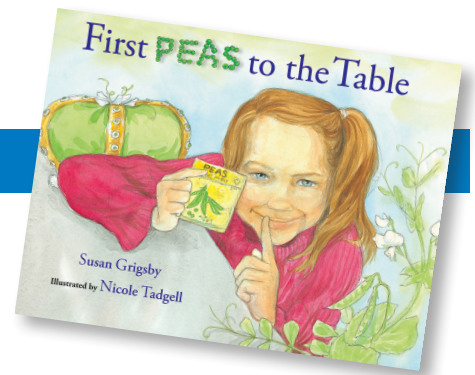
## A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

**Themes:** Life Cycle of Plants, Gardening, Presidential History, Friendship

**Book Brief:** This story connects Thomas Jefferson's garden pea contest to a gardening contest in a classroom 200 years later.

**Author:**  
Susan Grigsby

**Illustrator:**  
Nicole Tadgell



## TIME TO READ!



**Before reading, build background:** Have you ever had a contest? What kind? How did it work? What do plants need to grow? How can growing peas turn into a contest?

**While reading, draw conclusions:** How does Maya become more excited about the garden contest?

What things help Maya's peas grow?

**After reading, ask questions:**

- ◆ Describe Maya's character throughout the story.
- ◆ How do Shakalya and Maya show friendship?
- ◆ Who wins the first peas to the table contest?
- ◆ How did Thomas Jefferson influence the students in Mrs. Garcia's class?

## RELATED ACTIVITIES

### PEAS AND PASTA

Ingredients: 1 pound of fun-shaped pasta, 2 cups of fresh or frozen peas, 1/2 cup parmesan cheese, 3 tbsp. olive oil, 1 tsp. salt

Cook noodles according to package directions. In the last 3 min. of cooking, add peas to the water. Drain the peas and pasta, saving 1/4 cup of pasta water. Pour pasta, peas, parmesan cheese, olive oil, and saved water into a bowl. Stir to combine and enjoy!

### EGG CARTON GARDEN

Materials: cardboard egg carton, seeds (let your child choose a variety), soil, water, markers, craft sticks

Cut top off egg carton and set aside. Use markers to decorate carton. Poke holes in each "dome" to allow water to drain. Place the top underneath like a tray.

Fill each dome with soil. Have child plant 1-3 seeds in each dome (about 1/2 inch deep). Use markers and craft sticks to label what you planted in each dome. Lightly water and place on a sunny windowsill. Water garden and record observations daily. After the seeds have sprouted, move sprouts to a larger pot or outside garden!

### POP THE POD RACES

Materials: 1 to 2 pounds of pea pods, bowls, a timer

Have a race with family members to see who can shell the most peas in 5 minutes. Show children how to shell pea by gently pressing on the seam with their finger and running a finger through the inside to get the peas out. The object is to have the most peas in a bowl when time is up! Then, use the shelled peas in the Peas and Pasta recipe above!

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### OTHER BOOKS BY THIS AUTHOR

*In the Garden with Dr. Carver* (2010)

### OTHER BOOKS ABOUT GARDENING

*Tops and Bottoms*, Janet Stevens (1995)

*Water, Weed, and Wait*, Edith Fine and Angela Halpin (2010)



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