

# Grandpa's Garden

## A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

**Themes:** Family, Gardening, Ecosystems, Seasons

**Grade Level:** 2nd to 3rd grade

**Book Brief:** All year long, Billy and his grandpa work on preparing the soil, planting seeds, and taking care of the plants in Grandpa's garden.

**Author:** Stella Fry

**Illustrator:**  
Sheila Moxley

**Content Connections:**  
Science, Math, Social Studies



## TIME TO READ!

### BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

**The Cover:** What are the boy and his grandpa growing in their garden?

Do your students recognize any of the plants?

**The Pictures:** Take a brief picture walk. Ask students what they can tell about the time frame of the story based on the illustrations. What changes in the pictures?

**Prior Knowledge:** Do any of the students have gardens at home? Have they ever helped out planting seeds or picking fruit or vegetables? What types of food can you grow in a garden?

**Vocabulary:** pierced, compost, sprouted, greenhouse, gauzy

**Purpose for Reading:** "As we read, think about why personal gardens are important, not just for people like Billy and his grandpa, but for the whole planet."

## WHILE WE READ

### MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ Where do you think Grandpa might live? Why?
- ◆ What can you *infer* about where Billy lives?
- ◆ What season do they start working in the garden?
- ◆ Why is the ground too hard? How does that hurt the plants?
- ◆ What do you think the compost might be like?
- ◆ How much care does a garden need to be healthy?



## LET'S THINK ABOUT

**Our Purpose:** Why are personal gardens important? How would it help the planet if everyone grew at least some of their own food?

**Extending Our Thinking:** Not everyone has the space, time, or resources to grow and maintain their own garden. Help students brainstorm ways to overcome those challenges. Can they start a communal garden? Can they grow potted plants? If students can't grow anything of their own, how can they help take care of other plants in their community or at school?

### NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.



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