

# Grandpa's Garden

## A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

**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



## TIME TO READ!

**Before reading, look at the cover:** Talk with your child about the kinds of food you can see growing in Grandpa's garden. Where does our food come from?

**While reading, look at the pictures:** How do the illustrations help tell the story? How do the pictures change throughout the book?

**After reading, ask questions:**

- ◆ Where do you think Grandpa lives?
- ◆ What about Billy?
- ◆ Why is the ground too hard?
- ◆ Do you think this is Billy's first time helping Grandpa in the garden? Why or why not?

## RELATED ACTIVITIES

### GARDEN GRAPHING

Gather some friends for this activity. Have each friend bring a different garden vegetable to share. Wash, peel, and chop each vegetable into bite-sized pieces. Have a taste testing party! After everyone has tasted the vegetables, let everyone vote on the two they liked the best. Make a chart or graph of the results. Which veggie was the tastiest? Which veggie did everyone like least?

### VEGETABLE SOUP

**Ingredients:** 1 can vegetable soup, fresh veggies (such as potatoes, carrots, celery, corn)

Spice up some canned vegetable soup by adding your own fresh veggies! Cook soup on the stove according to the directions. Add  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of extra water. Wash and peel your fresh vegetables. Cut into small pieces and add to soup. Simmer until all vegetables

are tender. As you eat, can you tell the difference between the fresh vegetables and the ones from the can?

### GEOMETRIC BEANS

**Materials:** 8" x 11" piece of heavy poster board, craft glue, paint brush, pencil, dried beans or seeds (brown, green, yellow, white, orange, black)

Draw a geometrical design on poster board. Brush one section of the drawing with glue. Sprinkle beans onto the glue. Clean up any stray beans. Paint glue onto the next section and repeat the process with a different bean color. Continue until design is complete. Let dry and display!

### TECHNOLOGY LINK

Learn more about plants with a fun game in English or Spanish: [www.urbanext.illinois.edu/gpe/gpe.html](http://www.urbanext.illinois.edu/gpe/gpe.html)

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### OTHER BOOKS ABOUT GARDENING

*Talia and the Rude Vegetables*, Linda Elovitz Marshall (2011),  
*Tops and Bottoms*, Janet Stevens (1995),  
*The Vegetables We Eat*, Gail Gibbons (2008).



PROUDLY SPONSORED BY ★MACY'S  
©2012 Reading Is Fundamental, Inc.

Reading Is  
Fundamental