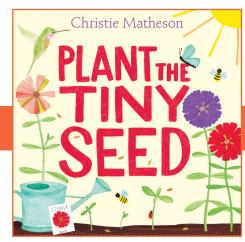
PLANT THE TINY SEED

Christie Matheson

TEACHING GUIDE

About the Book

Like Matheson's *Tap the Magic Tree*, this book will have young readers tapping, clapping, wiggling, and waving, while they watch three little seeds sprout and grow into lovely zinnia flowers. Sun, rain, birds, and bugs are all part of the growing process. And before the story ends, the reader helps scatter seeds so that new plants begin to grow. Children will see that the life cycle of plants wondrously and magically endures.





Before Reading

Ask the children if they have ever planted seeds. Do they know where seeds come from? How do seeds grow? Tell them that as they read this story and follow the prompts, they will be learning how to plant seeds. They will also see what helps seeds sprout into plants and then grow and bloom.

Discussion Questions

- 1. Where do seeds come from?
- 2. What foods do we eat that have seeds in them?
- **3.** Do we eat any seeds? (For example, sunflower seeds, nuts, peas, corn kernels.)
- 4. What does a plant need to grow?
- **5.** What do you think would happen if a plant gets too much sun or rain, or not enough?
- 6. How do worms help plants grow?
- 7. How do bees, butterflies, and humming birds help plants?
- 8. Did you see the ladybug on each page of this story? How are ladybugs helpful to plants?

- **10.** Why did the author ask you to scatter the seeds? Why is this important?
- **11.** The flowers in this story are zinnias. Do you have a favorite flower?
- **12.** Do flowers grow near your home? If so, did someone plant them in a garden, or are they wildflowers? What's the difference?
- 13. What are the main parts of a flower? (Name roots, stem, leaves, flower) Do you know the job of each part of the flower?

Common Core State Standards (Reading Standards for Literature): RL.K.1, RL.K.7, RL.K.10, RL.1.1, RL.1.7, RL.1.10
Common Core State Standards (Speaking and Listening): SL.K.1, SL.K.3, SL.K.4, SL.K.6, SL.1.1, SL.1.2, SL.1.4, SL.1.6



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Classroom Activities

- 1. How Does Your Garden Grow? Tell the class that they will be planting flower seeds. (Seeds can be planted indoors in cups or pots, or outside in soil near the classroom.) Ask the children what seeds need to grow. Then, after reading the story, ask the question once again. Discuss how plants need sun, water, and air. Discuss how outside plants also need pollinators like bees and butterflies to assist with the plant life cycle. Observe the seeds and keep a class journal of plant growth. Record children's observations and include drawings to show the different stages of growth. When the flowers bloom, have children make watercolor paintings to display in the classroom.
- 2. What's Inside? To prepare for this activity, soak lima bean seeds in water for about 12 hours. This will soften the seed coat and enable children to open the seeds. Before distributing the seeds, pass out an observation page with two boxes on it. Ask the children to draw in the first box what they think is inside a seed. Then give each child a pre-soaked lima bean. Tell the children to peel off the seed coat, and then gently separate the seed into two parts. Pass out hand lenses so that the children can see the tiny plant inside the two halves of the seed. Discuss the parts of the seed and each of their functions. The seed coat protects the seed and the baby plant (embryo) inside; the two halves of the seed (cotyledons) store food that the baby plant needs to grow. The baby plant will sprout (germinate) and grow into a bean plant. After the children carefully observe the inside of the seed, have them record what they saw by drawing the inside of the lima bean in the second box of their observation page.

Common Core State Standards (Writing Standards): W.K.2, W.K.8, W.1.8 Common Core State Standards (Speaking and Listening): SL.K.1, SL.K.4, SL.K.5, SL.1.1, SL.1.4, SL.1.5

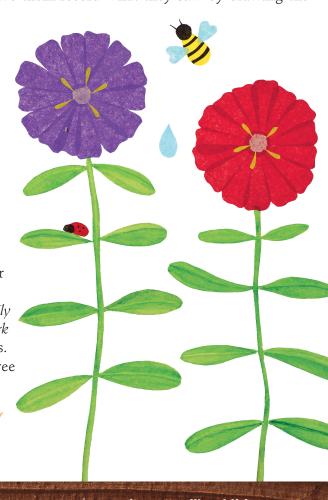


About the Author

christie Matheson is an editor for the parenting website and newsletter Stroller Traffic, and the author of the popular picture books Tap the Magic Tree and Touch the Brightest Star, as well as the adult book Green Chic: Saving the Earth in Style. Her writing about the environment, design, and other lifestyle topics has appeared in Martha Stewart's Whole Living, Daily Candy, Women's Health, the New York Times, and many other publications. She lives with her husband and three young children in San Francisco.

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