

# Oh Say Can You Seed?

by Bonnie Worth

With the familiarity of a childhood favorite character, The Cat in the Hat, children are engaged as they travel through a world of seeds, learning scientific terms on the way.



## Read

### Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *Have you ever eaten any seeds? What were they?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder what kind of seed the cat is planting?

### During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

### Rare Words in *Oh Say Can You Seed?*

- cotton: a soft white downy fiber that grows in seed pods
- grains: a small hard seed
- deserts: dry land, deprived of water or rainfall
- rain forests: thick tropical forest
- charts: a diagram or table displaying detailed information
- embryo: a plant in its earliest stages of development
- sprout: to grow from something like a seed
- cotyledon: the first leaf produced by the seed of a flowering plant
- coat: any thin layer that covers something
- root: underground base of a plant
- stem: main axis of a plant
- shoot system: a newly grown aerial part of a plant
- root system: the network of roots that a plant develops
- mole: a burrowing animal that lives underground
- anchor: any device that keeps an object in place
- minerals: a naturally occurring substance that is mined from the ground
- absorbs: to soak up a liquid or take in nutrients
- photosynthesis: using light energy trapped by chlorophyll
- stoma: a tiny pore in the outer layer of a plant leaf or stem

### Rare Words in *Oh Say Can You Seed?*

- pore: tiny opening in a plant
- ovules: small plant part developing into seed
- unfertilized: not fertilized
- stamen: pollen-bearing male part of a flower
- pollen: fertilizing powder
- nectar: the sweet liquid that flowering plants produce that attract insects and small birds
- plantains: fruit like a banana
- tangerines: citrus fruit
- edible: suitable for eating
- hitchhikers: to get a free ride
- pods: a seed case
- beanstalk: stem of a bean plant

#### After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What did the Cat in the Hat want to show the two kids?
- What types of things were made from something that grew from a seed?
- What kind of seeds grow in the forest?
- What parts make up a seed?
- What happens to a seed once it first grows? What are roots and stems used for?
- Can you name the parts of a flower?
- Describe what a root can look like?
- Why are stems important?
- How many types of leaves were there?
- What is photosynthesis?
- What is pollen? And what is it used for?
- How can pollen be spread from one flower to another?
- What do we eat that is grown from a seed?
- Why do some seeds make us sneeze?
- What type of plant did the Cat in the Hat climb? Did it grow from a seed?

**Do**

#### Grow-a-Root

You will need: sweet potatoes (one for each child), toothpicks, clear glass or plastic cup, water

After reading the story, give each child a clear cup, 3 toothpicks and a sweet potato. Stick three toothpicks in the potato and place on top of the cup. Pour enough water in the cup so that the bottom portion of the potato is submerged. Change the water weekly to replenish what evaporates. The roots will develop at the bottom and a stem will develop at the top. If desired, have each child draw a picture to show what is happening to their potato daily in a journal.