

A Seed is Sleepy

by Dianna Hutts Aston

A beautiful, water-colored filled, poetic introduction to the entire world of seeds, how they grow, survive and the specific characteristics of the many different types of seeds.



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, *Did you know that seeds sleep? What do you think that means?* 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 those seeds will grow into?

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 *A Seed is Sleepy*

- tucked: to fold something into position
- snug: to fit comfortably close or too close
- secretive: unwilling to reveal information
- reveal: make something known
- textures: the feel or appearance of a surface, rough or smooth
- cozy: warm, comfortable and snug
- freckle: a small brownish blemish found on the skin
- orchid: a perennial plant, three petals, delicate
- adventurous: daring and/or risky
- parachute: canopy for slowing fall from an aircraft
- drift: to wander aimlessly
- currents: the flow of water or air
- seawater: salt water from the sea
- pod: a seed case
- inventive: displaying creativity
- generous: pleasingly large in size or amount
- ancient: very old, from a distant past
- germinate: to start growing from a seed
- dormant: not actively growing
- icicles: a hanging rod of ice
- feasts: a large and elaborate meal
- minerals: a natural substance that is mined
- gravity: gravitational force that keeps things near the surface
- clever: showing intelligence

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- How do you know a seed is sleepy? Where does it live?
- What does it mean for a seed to be secretive?
- Can you name some seeds that are fruitful?
- What kind of seed is the Coast Redwood? The Orchid?
- Have you ever seen an adventurous seed? Where did you see the Dandelion?
- What helped the seed float?
- How was the seed inventive?
- Describe what happened to the seed as it grew.
- What did it mean for the seed to be ancient?
- Why did the seeds need water? How did they eat?
- How did the seed show that it was clever?



Do

Seed Scavenger Hunt

Before the activity: Have each child bring (or provide for each child) one adult, large sock

After reading the story, have each child put one sock on over their shoe. Take a nature walk either on the playground, local park, nature trail or through an open field. During the nature walk, talk about the different characteristics of spring, their surroundings and point out different flowers and seeds. After the nature walk, return to the classroom. Have each child take his/her sock off and look for what is stuck to their sock. Talk about what kind of seeds were found, why they stuck to the sock and how that is important in the seed's growth.