

# The Boy Who Grew Flowers

by Jen Wojtowicz

A touching story, beautifully illustrated, that teaches young readers the splendor of being different and the importance of being kind.



## 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, *What makes you special and unique?* 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 where the boy is taking those flowers?

### 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 *The Boy Who Grew Flowers*

- hotbed: the center of activity
- exotic: strikingly different
- tame: no longer wild
- shape-shifters: someone able to change form
- sprouted: to develop buds or shoots
- rumors: a statement without facts
- luminous: light-emitting, bright
- forthright: outspoken, simple and direct in speech
- hissed: a "s" sound to show a negative opinion of something
- rattled: to make somebody lose composure
- wistful: pensive and sad
- marveled: something that inspires awe, amazement or admiration
- tumbledown: ruined and falling down
- mule: a backless slipper or shoe
- saddle: a seat for riding an animal
- fancy: ornately decorated
- tango: a dance of Latin American origin

## After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Who is Rink and where does he live?
- Describe some of the unusual traits his family has?
- What made Rink so special?
- Why did Rink sit in the back of the classroom by himself? How did the other children treat him?
- How did Angelina feel about Rink?
- What special event did the children want to attend at school?
- Why didn't Angelina want to attend the dance?
- What did Rink make for Angelina? How did she react to her new shoes?
- Did Rink and Angelina attend the dance? Did they remain friends?
- Describe what happened at the end of the book.



**Do**

## What I like about Me

After reading the story, hand each child a piece of white paper. Ask each child to tell you one thing that they like about themselves. After every child has spoken, have the children draw a picture of the one thing about themselves that they love. If desired, pair up the children and have them draw something they love about their partner.