

The Tiny Seed

by Eric Carle

Ride along with the tiny seed as it goes on an adventurous journey through nature.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *This book will show you how a seed can become a flower*. 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 if the tiny seed will become a flower like this one?

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 Tiny Seed*

- Autumn: season after summer and before winter (September – November)
- rays: narrow beams of light from the sun
- sails: to move smoothly or swiftly
- drowns: to die by immersion and usually suffocation in water
- desert: an area of land in a very hot climate, that consists only of sand, gravel, or rock with little or no plants or water
- Winter: the coldest season of the year (December – February)
- Spring: the season of the year during which many plants bring forth leaves and flowers (March – May)
- burst: to split apart suddenly because of excess internal pressure
- roots: the part of a plant that has no leaves and usually spreads underground
- stems: the main stalk of a plant
- weed: a wild plant growing where it is not wanted
- Summer: the warmest season of the year (June – August)
- petals: one of the showy colored parts of a flower in bloom
- pod: the long narrow outer case holding the seeds of a plant

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- How many of you have been to the mountains? Were there plants growing on the mountain?
- A seed like this one cannot grow in the ocean. Does anybody know why?
- Seeds like this one cannot grow in the desert either. What kind of plants do grow in the desert?
- How does the snow on the ground help protect the seeds?
- Have you ever picked a flower from the ground? Who was the flower for?
- Who can remember the process a seed goes through to become a flower?

Do

Sponge Grass

Provide each child with a sponge. Wet the sponge and sprinkle grass seeds on top. Within a few days the seeds will begin to sprout.