

Zinnia's Flower Garden

by Monica Wellington

A journal style, full-color story of a girl's passion for and dedication towards creating her perfect garden.



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 is your favorite 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 how many flowers are in Zinnia's garden?

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 *Zinnia's Flower Garden*

- pats: to touch something or somebody repeatedly with the palm of the hand
- gently: using little force
- sprinkles: distribute small amounts of something
- sprout: to begin to grow from a seed
- seedling: a young plant
- poking: to make a hole in something
- burrow: to move through something by creating a space or hole
- thirsty: lacking water and having a strong desire for liquids
- pesky: irritating and troublesome
- inspects: to look at something critically
- greedy: strongly desiring more than required
- measures: a standard used for figuring size
- bud: a flower that has not yet opened
- bloomed: flowering
- flutter: to move gently but with quick changes in direction
- abundant: plentiful, well-supplied
- bouquets: a bunch of flowers grouped together
- fragrant: sweet-smelling
- customers: a person that buys goods or services
- dim: not well lit or producing little light

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What is Zinnia getting ready to do?
- Why is Zinnia digging in the dirt? Removing stones? Raking the dirt?
- What did Zinnia do to plant her flowers?
- Can you list all the things that flowers need to grow?
- What was the first thing that poked through the ground after Zinnia planted all the seeds?
- What part of the plant burrows into the ground? Which part of the plant sprouts towards the sun?
- How did Zinnia take care of her garden?
- Why did Zinnia measure her flowers and pull up all the weeds?
- Can you describe the life cycle of the butterfly?
- What color was the first flower to bloom in Zinnia's garden? What did it smell like?
- What colors were all the flowers in Zinnia's garden? Can you name any of the flowers?
- What did Zinnia do with her flowers once they bloomed? Who came and picked them?
- What did Zinnia do in the Fall to prepare for her new garden? During the Winter?



Do

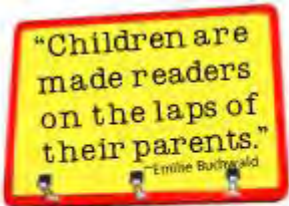
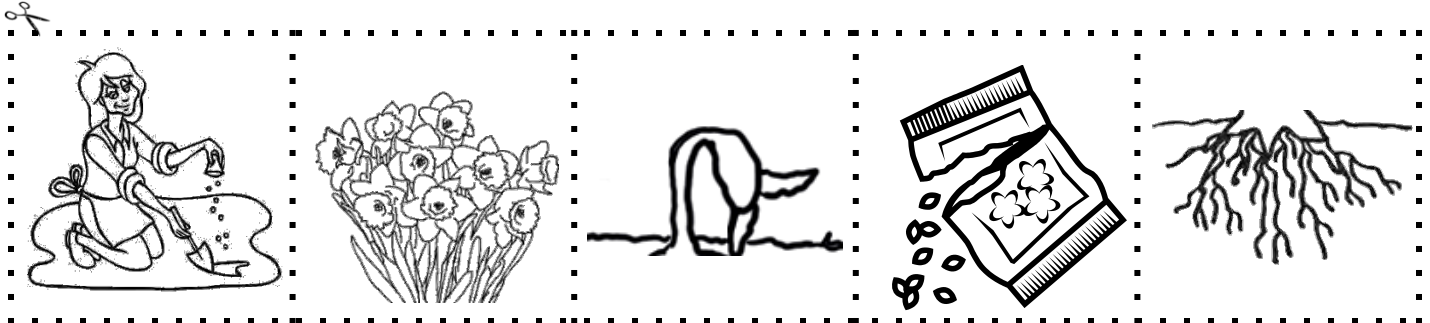
Flower Life Cycle

After reading the story, hand out the *A Flower's Life Cycle* sheet to each child. Name each square and describe what is happening in each picture. Allow the children enough time to color their squares, cut each square out and glue them in the right sequential order. Once the children have finished their life cycle chart, you can mount the pictures on construction paper and display in the classroom.

My Name: _____

A Flower's Life Cycle

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