

Objective

Use a gardening text to teach key ELA strategies (picture and text connection).

Activity

1. Visit the school garden and make guesses about what is growing. Discuss how seeds and gardens hold surprises when we do not know what has been planted.
2. Read or listen to *The Surprise Garden* by Zoe Hall.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lr66Gt4xs5Q>
3. During the mini-lesson, point out the close connection between the pictures and text.
4. Have students practice retelling the story using only the picture clues. (Cover the text.)
5. Finally, select a seed for students to plant as a surprise seed. Water and observe the seed each day to see what grows. Transplant the seedling in the garden. Make predictions about what is growing until students are able to figure it out.

Grade Level: Kindergarten

Subject Area: ELA

Materials:

The Surprise Garden by Zoe Hall
Seeds to plant

Standards:

RL.K.7. With prompting and support, describe the relationship between illustrations and the story in which they appear (e.g., what moment in a story an illustration depicts).
RI.K.2. With prompting and support, identify the main topic and re-tell key details of a text

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Your Notes & Ideas