Farm to School: Highlighting Local Fruits & Vegetables



Materials to inspire your USDA Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program

SUGGESTED STUDENT READING

Groundhog's
Garden
Grew

Cherry, Lynne.

How Groundhog's

Garden Grew.

We know what you're thinking...groundhogs usually eat the garden, not grow it! This includes detailed illustrations that give a lot of information by themselves with a wonderfully

written story to tie it all together.

Coy, John.

Two Old Potatoes and Me.

This is a wonderful new book that tells the story of growing potatoes, with a recipe for mashed potatoes at the end. Also a subtle comment on divorce/separation to give comfort to children who might be experiencing that themselves.



Ehlert, Lois. *Growing*Vegetable Soup. Reed

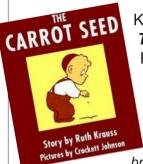
Business Information, Inc.

This is the boldest, brassiest garden book to hit the market, and what a delight. Intensely colored graphics capture the

complete growing process

from seed to cooking pot, with the focus on the plants. The unseen narrator describes the process of growing vegetable soup, from preparing the tools and digging holes for the seeds to weeding plants; picking vegetables; washing, chopping, and cooking them and finally enjoying the homemade soup while planning to grow more next year. It's a fresh presentation of the gardening cycle with a joyful conclusion, and the added attraction of an

easy and tasty recipe for vegetable soup on the flyleaf. A book to help nourish healthy readers. Ages: PreSchool-Grade 1



Krauss, Ruth.

The Carrot Seed.
HarperCollins Children's

HarperCollins Children's Books

A little boy just knows that a carrot will grow from the seed that he plants--whatever his family may believe--in this brief classic story of childhood

faith rewarded. Ages: 5 to 8

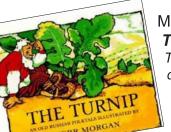


McCloskey, Robert. Blueberries For Sal. Penguin Group.

This simple story of a mother and daughter picking blueberries, and a mother bear and baby

bear eating blueberries, does

a perfect job depicting the sweetness of the mother/child relationship. It shows the protective nature of loving mothers and the security a child feels when with his/her mother. And it's a great example of two families preparing for winter by picking (or eating, as the case may be) blueberries.



Morgan, Pierr. *The Turnip.*

The turnip seed that Dedoushka planted grew and grew, and now it's too big to pull up! Dedoushka can't pull it out

of the ground, and neither can his wife Baboushka. Everyone pulls together,

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All FFVP materials available at: schoolmealsvt.com.

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SUGGESTED STUDENT READING (cont.)

even Keska the cat, but it's not until help comes from a most unexpected source that the giant vegetable finally comes out.

Na Ok R H Apple Tree

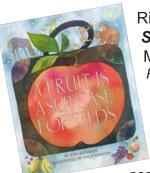
Naslund, Gorel Kristina.

Our Apple Tree.

Roaring Brook Press.

Here's a whimsical and very useful look at the life cycle of the apple tree. With two helpful tree sprites as guides, readers travel from spring, when the apple tree blos-

soms, through summer, when the fruit grows, to fall and the harvest. Along the way, you'll learn about the life of the tree and the animals that visit - from insects that pollinate the flowers to deer that eat the fallen fruit.



Richards, Jean. *A Fruit Is A Suitcase For Seeds.*Millbrook Press.

Richards's carefully worded information provides an excellent introduction to seeds, their purpose, and growth that should be easy for young children to grasp. On each

page, one or two short lines of text

appear beneath a large painting. Hariton's use of bright watercolors adds sensual appeal to her illustrations of various fruits, vegetables, animals, and habitats. This cleverly presented book can be used as a read-aloud discussion starter, as a prelude to planting seeds and observing their growth, or in preparation for dissecting fruits and vegetables in order to find the seeds inside. Ages: PreSchool-Grade 2

eat Healthy. See

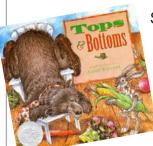
Sears, William, M.D., and Sears, Martha, R.N.

Eat Healthy, Feel Great.

Little, Brown and Company.

A wonderful resource for parents who are trying to "do the right thing" -- to teach their children healthy eating habits in the

midst of a society that promotes the fast, processed, and packaged. Dr. Sears categorizes food into green light/yellow light/red light groups, and it's a concept children readily understand. The text is simple and clear, and the message is presented in a fun way. This book would be a big help to any parents interested in changing their families' eating habits for the better. There are parts in the book that are just for parents: they explain nutrition, as well as make suggestions on how to incorporate more "green light" foods in the family's meals.



Stevens, Janet.

Tops & Bottoms. Harcourt Books.

Hare solves his family's problems by tricking rich and lazy Bear in this funny, energetic version of an old slave story. With roots

in American slave tales, Tops & Bottoms celebrates the trickster tradition of using one's wits to overcome hardship. "As usual, Stevens' animal characters, bold and colorful, are delightful. It's all wonderful fun, and the book opens, fittingly, from top to bottom instead of from side to side, making it perfect for story-time sharing."