The Booklist Project

Focus: Themed Wordless Picture Book List
Plants
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WIDA level: Entering/Beginning

**Summary:** This almost wordless picture book starts with a boy and a girl who plant a seed. They water the seed, rake the seed, and care for the seed together. At first, the seed does not grow so the boy and girl decide to leave it alone and just forget about it.

This book is available in paperback or braille.

**Use with ELLs:** I chose this book because it shows cooperation. The simple sentences in the book, review of “ee” spelling, and “ed” contractions give ELLs practice with phonics. The book covers grammar usage and punctuation. A picture walk may enhance learning for ELLs. ELLs may use the quotations/writing conventions to notice conversations. Also, oral reading fluency may be exhibited with suffixes, such as, painted and watered. This book is especially meaningful if a child understands how long it takes something to grow.

**Links to online resources:**


WIDA level: Entering/Beginning

**Summary:** This non-fiction book describes trees as being a valuable resource. Examples are given of what trees give us from fruits to flowers, syrup, foods, even shade. This book illustrates that different trees are responsible for different things.

This book is available in paperback format only.
**Use with ELLs:** This book shows off a different illustrative style with a developmentally appropriate text. The bold wording helps students to notice words and develop ideas or questions. This book is good for ELLs because it is repetitive and the simple sentences make for a good discussion. The book uses “close-up” picture boxes to show off content. Also, inside the back inside cover, lists “Things to Know” and “Things to Do”. This is useful in promoting higher thinking and linking to background knowledge.

**Links to online resources:**

www.frasercurriculum.weebly.com/.../kindergarten-unit_3_label_and_list.html


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WIDA: Entering/Beginning

**Summary:**

This non-fiction book breaks down the process of seeds transforming into plants so it is easy to understand, while allowing for discovery. This book introduces seeds and their part in the lifecycle of a plant. This book includes “Fun Fact” boxes and “close-ups” of real pictures, especially highlighting small seeds that we sometimes overlook. The sizes of certain seeds are included, such as, strawberries and coconuts. Also, this book does a wonderful job showcasing how plants grow, how some plants grow into flowers, and some flowers make their own seeds.

This book is available as a paperback, hardcover, or bilingual.

**Use with ELLs:**

I love this book for ELLs! The simple explanations and language are accompanied by great photos! The large, bold text is great for vocabulary building. The “real” photos show plants emerging from the actual seed to help ELLs can make the connection that seeds change into plants. The pictures also show children of different cultures.

The book is organized in a manner that is “user friendly”. For example, it flows nicely; all pictures are correlated to the text. The information is represented in a way a child could understand. This book may even help to set up a Science project or to identify different structures of a plant.

**Links to online resources:**

“Unit plan from Seed to Plant” preK-2 www.scholastic.com/teachers/lesson-plan/seed-plant


**Summary:**

This non-fiction book is about Plants. There are different topics covered in this book, such as, “What is a plant?”, “What do plants need?”, “Do plants have parts?”, and “How do plants grow?” This book lists examples of different types of plants, lists the needs of plants, different plant parts, as well as, illustrated the life cycle of a plant.

This book is available as an e-book, or a Big Book or student book, both paperback.

**Use with ELLs:**

This book would be amazing for ELLs! From the table of contents, headings, labels, the glossary, and diagrams, they help ELLs to develop skills necessary for literacy and provide support when necessary. This book introduces basic Science concepts with a glossary, Q & A format, bold words, simple sentences, and large print. The real pictures with labels provide text support and the vibrant colors grab students attention. On page 16, higher order thinking is reinforced from asking the questions “Who needs plant? Why?” This book helps early readers to develop skills and strategies necessary for reading about Science.

**Links to online resources:**

[www.delta-education.com/downloads/samples_dsm/From_Seed_to_PlantLink1.pdf](http://www.delta-education.com/downloads/samples_dsm/From_Seed_to_PlantLink1.pdf)

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**WIDA: Entering/Beginning**
Summary:

This is a beginning literacy book. In this book, a boy describes some of the things that are found in his garden. Some things included in the garden were a tree, lettuce, and roses. The boy walks through, cares for, and truly enjoys his garden.

This book is available in Braille, paperback, on audiocassette, or as an electronic book.

Use with ELLs:

This book would be good to use with ELLs because of its repetitive nature and use of alliteration when describing the contents of the garden. The simple sentences and the respect and love for plants will allow students to connect to text. The use of single syllable words helps ELLs to familiarize themselves with the context. A picture walk would be perfect and ELLs will reinforce the sight word “my”. ELLs can learn beginning sounds of the letters r, b, t, and l.

Links to online resources:

http://www.reconnectioncompany.com/TLReading/Lessons/ellisor.htm


WIDA: Entering/Emergent

Summary:

This non-fiction book will help students to develop understanding of the characteristics of the plant and the life cycle of a plant. The book creates vivid, informative reading. As you read this book, you follow the progression of a seed into a flower. The illustrations are very detailed and look real so the stages of this transformation really come to life.

This book is available as a paperback.

Use with ELLs:

This book would be recommended for ELLs because the pictures really help connect the words to the progression of the seed into a plant. This simple story line shows the cycle of a plant using picture clues, large print, and high frequency words repeated on one line of text. This book would be great to introduce the theme of growing plants and ELLs could share if they ever grew anything or planted anything before. This theme of Plants connects to how our world works!

Links to online resources:


**WIDA: Entering/Emerging**

**Summary:**

This book is good to introduce or familiarize students with what plants need to grow. This book takes different plants, such as sunflowers, watermelons, beans, peanuts, and trees, and connects them all. The text shows that although they all different types of plants, they all need is sun, water, and soil to thrive.

This book is available as a paperback or Google book.

**Use with ELLs:**

The text pattern guides the students with vocabulary. ELLs can relate this text to familiar topics and follow the predictable language patterns in the text. ELLs can relate to this text by naming the different plants in their home language. During a read aloud ELLs may be able to match spoken words to print. The repetitive questioning and use of real pictures make it easy for ELLs to connect to content. The large print and use of punctuation introduce/reinforce literacy for ELLs.

**Links to online resources:**

http://www.akresource.org/webfm_send/232
http://rigby.hmhco.com/HA/correlations/pdf/r/rl04_1_plant.pdf


**WIDA: Entering**

**Summary:**
This book conveys the transformation of a seed to a flower. A young girl places the sunflower seeds in the ground. On the next page, the roots are portrayed realistically underground. The pods of the seeds burst open and a stem is created, then a leaf, then a bud. Eventually, the bud turns into a beautiful sunflower!

This book is available as a paperback.

**Use with ELLs:**
This book is ideal for ELLs because of the simple sentences, repetition, bold words, and large print. The vibrant colors catch the eye! The simple sentences are real-life connections to the beautiful illustrations, this is useful for ELLs. This book is good for ELLs because it is multicultural, realistic, bright, and a simple starter to introduce a concept or connect to prior knowledge.

**Links to online resources:**
- [http://teachers.net/lessons/posts/1480.html](http://teachers.net/lessons/posts/1480.html)

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**WIDA: Entering/Emerging**

**Summary:**
This simple book describes a boy planting a pumpkin seed and growing it into his Halloween jack-o-lantern. It shows the seed, and then the seed sprouts into a pumpkin plant. The pumpkin plant grows a pumpkin flower and from that flower emerges a pumpkin. The boy, Jamie, waits until the pumpkin is large enough to pick. He carves the pumpkin and saves the seeds to plant again in the spring.

This book is available as a hardcover or Google book.

**Use with ELLs:**
This book is good for ELLs because the text is simply worded and the drawings are beautiful and large. This book shows the sequential growth of a plant into a pumpkin. Vocabulary is introduced, such as, sprout and carved, and the text is simple, large, and bolded. This book is good to make predictions and celebrate growth. Predictions can be made from the text. This book offers a shared reading experience. Also, this book can be used for ELLs to take inferences and draw conclusions.

**Links to online resources:**

**Summary:**

Owly and Wormy are sad because all of the butterfly friends have left their garden. They plant milkweed to attempt to attract more butterflies but instead get green bugs. They try to rid the garden of green bugs but the green bugs think of the garden as home and do not want to leave. After some attempts to get rid of the green bugs, owly and wormy come to terms with the invading green bugs and become friends. Until one day the bugs are gone and cocoons are found on the plant. After some time, butterflies emerge! Everyone is happy! Their friends are back! This book is full of adventure! The illustrations are very clever!

This book is available as hardcover and for Kindle, e-books, or Google books. Also, on you tube as a read aloud.

**Use with ELLs:**

Any child will love the vibrant colors and illustrations in this book! ELLs can use their own thoughts and words to tell the story. The life cycle of a butterfly is depicted and metamorphosis introduced. ELLs will be able to figure out the story by the expressions on the characters faces and the emotions. ELLs will have the opportunity to decode the dialogue by visuals that will keep them engaged throughout the book. This is a simple tale of transformation, beautifully illustrated and "written" with picture balloons included. This book includes critical thinking skills. ELLs will be able to connect something in this book to prior knowledge or a familiarity in their life, and that can be expanded on for more opportunities to learn.

**Links to online resources:**

[http://www.teachingbooks.net/tb.cgi?tid=29800](http://www.teachingbooks.net/tb.cgi?tid=29800)
The Booklist Project
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M.Ed. In TESL Program,

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