

First PEAS to the Table

A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

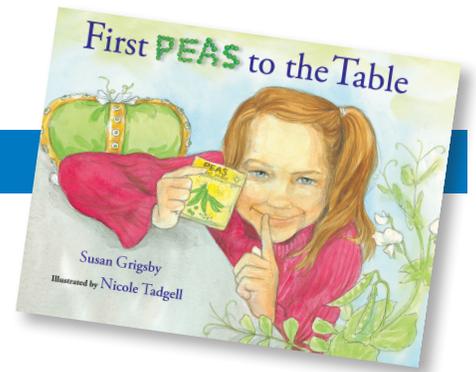
Themes: Life Cycle of Plants, Gardening, Presidential History, Friendship

Book Brief: This story connects Thomas Jefferson's garden pea contest to a gardening contest in a classroom 200 years later.

Author:
Susan Grigsby

Illustrator:
Nicole Tadgell

Content Connections: Science, History



TIME TO READ!

BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

The Cover: Have the students predict what the book will be about based on

the title and the front cover illustration. What is the girl doing with her finger? What else do you notice in the cover illustration?

The Pictures: Take a brief picture walk before reading. Point out the pea plant's life cycle on the inside cover. What do the characters in the book seem to be doing?

Prior Knowledge: Introduce historical information about Thomas Jefferson and his garden at his home in Monticello. Visit: classroom.monticello.org/kids/resources/profile/81/Brief-Biography-of-Thomas-Jefferson/ and share with the class. Discuss gardening. What is needed to grow food?

Vocabulary: agriculture, compost, Monticello, transplanting, trellis

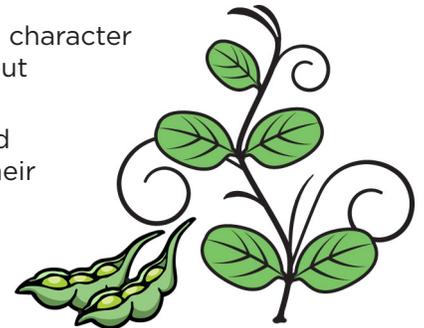
Purpose for Reading: "As we read, use clues in the book to figure out who you think will win the contest in Mrs. Garcia's class and listen for ways that Thomas Jefferson inspired the class."

WHILE WE READ

MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ What is the First Peas to the Table contest?
- ◆ To what does Mrs. Garcia compare the taste of peas?
- ◆ What did Thomas Jefferson mean when he called agriculture the "crown of all the sciences"?
- ◆ Why did Maya's first group of peas not sprout?

- ◆ How does Maya's character change throughout the book?
- ◆ How do Maya and Shakayla show their friendship?



LET'S THINK ABOUT

Our Purpose: "What were some of the ways that Thomas Jefferson inspired the students in Mrs. Garcia's class to have a successful pea garden?" "Who did you think was going to win the First Peas to the Table Contest?"

Extending Our Thinking: Ask these open-ended questions: Why were both Thomas Jefferson and Maya successful gardeners? List the qualities a person needs to be successful. Ask the class what they think Thomas Jefferson did with his peas and other vegetables after they were harvested from his 1,000 acre garden. How can gardens be useful in schools, communities, and homes?

NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.



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