

First PEAS to the Table

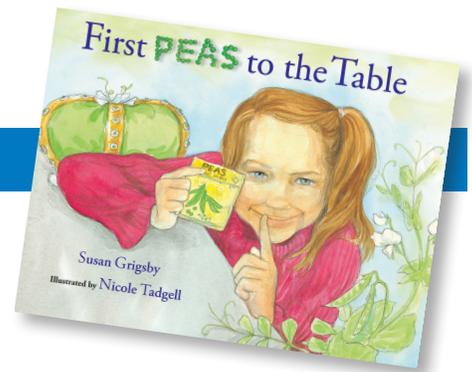
A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

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



TIME TO READ!



Before reading, build background: Have you ever had a contest? What kind? How did it work? What do plants need to grow? How can growing peas turn into a contest?

While reading, draw conclusions: How does Maya become more excited about the garden contest?

What things help Maya's peas grow?

After reading, ask questions:

- ◆ Describe Maya's character throughout the story.
- ◆ How do Shakalya and Maya show friendship?
- ◆ Who wins the first peas to the table contest?
- ◆ How did Thomas Jefferson influence the students in Mrs. Garcia's class?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

PEAS AND PASTA

Ingredients: 1 pound of fun-shaped pasta, 2 cups of fresh or frozen peas, 1/2 cup parmesan cheese, 3 tbsp. olive oil, 1 tsp. salt

Cook noodles according to package directions. In the last 3 min. of cooking, add peas to the water. Drain the peas and pasta, saving 1/4 cup of pasta water. Pour pasta, peas, parmesan cheese, olive oil, and saved water into a bowl. Stir to combine and enjoy!

EGG CARTON GARDEN

Materials: cardboard egg carton, seeds (let your child choose a variety), soil, water, markers, craft sticks

Cut top off egg carton and set aside. Use markers to decorate carton. Poke holes in each "dome" to allow water to drain. Place the top underneath like a tray.

Fill each dome with soil. Have child plant 1-3 seeds in each dome (about 1/2 inch deep). Use markers and craft sticks to label what you planted in each dome. Lightly water and place on a sunny windowsill. Water garden and record observations daily. After the seeds have sprouted, move sprouts to a larger pot or outside garden!

POP THE POD RACES

Materials: 1 to 2 pounds of pea pods, bowls, a timer

Have a race with family members to see who can shell the most peas in 5 minutes. Show children how to shell pea by gently pressing on the seam with their finger and running a finger through the inside to get the peas out. The object is to have the most peas in a bowl when time is up! Then, use the shelled peas in the Peas and Pasta recipe above!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

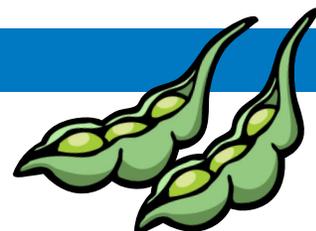
OTHER BOOKS BY THIS AUTHOR

In the Garden with Dr. Carver (2010)

OTHER BOOKS ABOUT GARDENING

Tops and Bottoms, Janet Stevens (1995)

Water, Weed, and Wait, Edith Fine and Angela Halpin (2010)



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