

Harlem Grown:
How One Big Idea Transformed A Neighborhood
Discussion Guide
Grades Pre-K – 3

Before Reading: to activate schema, build background knowledge, and set a purpose.

- Discuss the idea of having a city or neighborhood garden
- Before reading, have a class discussion to activate prior knowledge about gardens? Do you know some of the fruits & vegetables that can be grown in a garden? Make a list of student generated responses on an anchor chart or whiteboard.
- Frontload vocabulary: garden, city, neighborhood, Harlem, transform, bustling, litter, trash, garbage, soil, seedlings, shovels, fertilizer, mulch, wilted, weeded, community

During Reading: to engage students, check for understanding, and make connections.

- Why did Mr. Tony think that the vacant lot would make a good neighborhood garden?
- Are the illustrations & stories within the story helpful in understanding the concepts of what is needed to cleanup & start a community garden? Why?
- What are you learning about food & community being so important to the idea of working together on a neighborhood garden?

After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.

Use a chart to have the students list favorite fruits, vegetables, and herbs. Have the students vote on their favorites in each category, and then graph the data together.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to learn more about getting involved in neighborhood gardening.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books about these topics.