

*Way to Grow! Gardening: Composting*  
**Discussion Guide**  
Grades 2 — 6

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

- Discuss the idea of gardening, and specifically, composting.
- Before reading, have a class discussion to activate prior knowledge about gardening? Do you know what it means to create and nurture a compost pile? What other items or steps are involved in starting and taking care of a compost pile. Make a list of student generated responses on an anchor chart or whiteboard.
- Frontload vocabulary: compost, drainage, landfill, microscope, organisms, carbon, humus, manure, nitrogen, organic

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

- Why do you think people want to compost their food waste?
- Are the illustrations & stories within the story helpful in understanding the concepts of gardening, especially in understanding the importance of composting?
- What are you learning about gardening and composting?

**After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.**

Use a chart to have the students list in two columns

- steps and materials used in creating a compost pile
- ways we can learn to help our families & our communities establish compost piles

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss the topic and work toward reducing food waste.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books about reducing food waste, such as [\*Harlem Grown: How One Big Idea Transformed A Neighborhood\*](#)