

# Little Acorn

## READ ALOUD GUIDE

**Themes:** Growth, Change, Nature, Life Cycles, Seasons

**Book Brief:** Have you ever wondered how a tiny acorn becomes a giant oak tree? Follow Little Acorn as it grows and changes through the seasons. Discover how something so small can become something amazing!

**Author:**  
Melanie Joyce

**Illustrator:**  
Gina Maldonado



## BEFORE READING

**The Cover & Pictures:** Look at the cover together. Ask, “What do you notice about Little Acorn? What do you think might happen to it?” Take a quick picture walk and invite students to notice changes in the acorn and its surroundings.

**Prior Knowledge:** Ask, “Have you ever found an acorn outside? Where do acorns come from?” Explain that acorns are seeds that can grow into oak trees. (Think, Pair, Share)

**Vocabulary:** Frontload Tier 2 words using RIF’s [Tier Two Vocabulary Guide](#).

**Purpose for Reading:** “As we read, pay attention to how Little Acorn grows and changes. Think about what happens as it becomes a big oak tree.”

## DURING READING

**Check for understanding & make connections:**

- Where does Little Acorn begin its journey?
- What happens to Little Acorn after it reaches the ground?
- How does Little Acorn change as it grows?
- What do you notice about the seasons as Little Acorn grows?
- Why do you think growing into a big tree takes time?



**Think Aloud:** “I’m noticing that Little Acorn is changing little by little. It doesn’t become a big tree all at once! As the seasons change, I’m going to pay attention to what happens to Little Acorn and how it continues to grow.”

## AFTER READING

**Our Purpose:** Ask, “How did Little Acorn change from the beginning to the end of the story? What happened along the way that helped it become a big oak tree?”

**Extending Our Thinking:** Ask, “What other living things start small and grow bigger over time?” Divide a sheet of paper into four sections representing spring, summer, fall, and winter. Have students draw an oak tree during each season. Discuss how the tree and its surroundings change throughout the year.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.