



Contributor: Debra S. Dadey **Grade Level:** 1st

1. Identify the standards to be addressed:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.1.10 With prompting and support, read prose and poetry of appropriate complexity for grade 1.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.1.2 Retell stories, including key details, and demonstrate understanding of their central message or lesson.

2. Statement of the objective and lesson outcomes: Students will learn that different seeds grown different plants and become familiar with a well-known folktale and be able to retell it. Students will be able to define the role of an author and illustrator, as well as learn that they are listed on the front of a book.

3. Materials, resources, and technology to be used by teacher/students:

The Turnip by Jan Brett, and a real turnip. Your local library may have puppets for you to use, such as a badger. Photocopying the book's creatures and attaching them to felt will allow you to use a felt board for your story.

4. Introduction of the topic:

Fingerplay:

Show children then encourage them to participate.

This is my garden (*extend palm of hand facing up*)

I'll rake it with care, (*rake palm with 3 fingers of the other hand*)

And then some flower seeds, (*plant pretend seeds on palm*)

I'll plant there.

The sun will shine, (*circular action with other hand*)

And the rain will fall, (*fingers flutter down*)

And my garden will blossom, And grow straight and tall. (*cup hands and 'grow' fingers upwards like flowers*)

(can sing to the tune of [Twinkle Twinkle](#))

You can might also like to try one of the songs/activities listed at:

<http://www.preschooleducation.com/sgarden.shtml> (such as the one below):

Planting Time Sung to: "Row, Row, Row Your Boat"

Dig, dig, dig the earth

(make digging motion)

Then you plant your seeds

(pretend to drop seeds)

A gentle rain

(Flutter fingers down)

And bright sunshine

(Circle arms above head)

Will help your flowers grow

(Hold one arm parallel to ground and move other arm up behind it with fingers extended to represent a flower growing)

5. Procedure for instruction:

Show kids a packet of seeds and then pour them out into your hand. “Does anyone know what these are?” You can show several packets and let them guess what will grow based on the picture on the seed packet. It would be fun to show turnip seeds and then a real turnip.

Read story aloud: You may choose to read one of the suggested books below or read and create a flannel board story of *The Great Big Enormous Turnip* by Alexei Tolstoy. It can be done by attaching flannel or simply taping the cut-out characters to a flat surface in the classroom such as the board.

Whatever book you choose, please practice it so that you can hold the book most of the time with the pictures facing out for the children to see. It is always good to give a little introduction to the story. If you have a stuffed animal that goes along with the story you can hold it up and let children guess what the story is about, or you can give some sort of clue with the turnip! Only call on students who remember to raise their hand to keep the class in good order. Students can act out the story using the flannel board or by being the characters themselves. If you allow this, be sure to give each student a chance.

- **From Seed to Plant By Gail Gibbons** Hard to understand concepts like plant reproduction, seed dispersal, pollen transference, and seed germination are made simple with big, beautiful drawings. A great resource to introduce elementary aged children to the relationship between seeds and plants.
- **How a Seed Grows By Helene J. Jordan** When you pick up a tiny seed, it’s hard to imagine how big the final product will be! This book helps kids understand the difference between various seeds and how they become trees, fruits and vegetables.
- **Oh Say Can You Seed?: All About Flowering Plants By Bonnie Worth** The Cat in the Hat knows a lot about plants! With help from Thing 1 and Thing 2, the famous feline teaches kids about flowering plants in traditional Seussian form.
- **A Seed is Sleepy By Dianna Hutts Aston** With brilliant and bright illustrations combined with fluid and poetic text, this book is an absolute favorite for both teachers and parents when introducing kids to various seed and plant facts.
- **Gardening Lab for Kids By Renata Fossen Brown** An activity per week, this book is overflowing with wonder-filled experiments and suggestions for hands-on, outdoor experiences. Take your learning to the next level by participating in these activities with your children.
- **Growing Vegetable Soup By Lois Ehlert** Simplistic language and a bold color palette makes this book perfect for the youngest gardeners-in-training. This story not only shares gardening information for beginners, but also maintains an easy story arc for children.
- **The Vegetables We Eat By Gail Gibbons** Making her second appearance on this list, Gail Gibbons has found a way to make vegetables interesting, beautiful and accessible in her book ‘The Vegetables We Eat.’ Get your kids excited about eating healthy by talking about these different types of vegetables and how they get from the ground to our plates.
- **Flip, Float, Fly: Seeds on the Move By JoAnn Early Macken** Seed distribution has never looked so peaceful! The delicate and sweet illustrations are paired with language that is fun for kids to read along. Often used in the classroom, this book belongs on your shelves at home, too.
- **The Flower Alphabet Book By Jerry Pallotta** From amaryllis to zinnia, this book introduces all sorts of flowers to readers, and their parents! Use this book for a nature hike, scavenger hunt, or even to work on letter sounds and pronunciation, as many children will not be familiar with the flower names beforehand.
- **Berries, Nuts, And Seeds By Diane Burns** This book is perfect for the nature-loving family. Not only does it introduce you to the various berries, nuts and seeds in your neighborhood, but the author also provides safety tips, activities and ideas to get the whole family involved in learning.
- **The Carrot Seed By Ruth Krauss** A timeless book that teaches children about nature, patience, and believing in yourself. One noticeable addition: the illustrator, Crockett Johnson, presents a young boy who captures your heart, just as he did in ‘Harold and the Purple Crayon.’

- **Muncha! Muncha! Muncha! By Candace Fleming** Fleming presents this story of gardening via repetitive sound effects, making it simple for children follow along — both in reading aloud and comprehending the storyline. The pictures are cute, although children may want to imagine their own illustrations based on the sounds they hear.
 - **If You Hold a Seed By Elly MacKay** A book reminiscent of The Giving Tree, If You Hold a Seed encourages us to imagine a place where nature and imagination collide. Follow your heart and root for the little protagonist — in the end, you'll be glad you did.
 - **Jack's Garden By Henry Cole** 'This is the garden that Jack planted...' is a verse that will become ingrained in your little one's memory. With perhaps the best illustrations of the gardening process, this book will inspire even the littlest nature-lovers to build their own garden.
 - **The Turnip By Jan Brett** There are many adaptations of this folktale where a succession of creatures try to pull up a turnip.
6. **Lesson closure:** Ask students to look at lunch or at home to see if they can find any vegetables like the ones on the seed packets and challenge the to make their own garden someday.
 7. **Assessment of Understanding:** Children will participate in the fingerplay actions and in the retelling of The Turnip. The DAR member will call on students to point out the name of the author and illustrator of The Turnip.