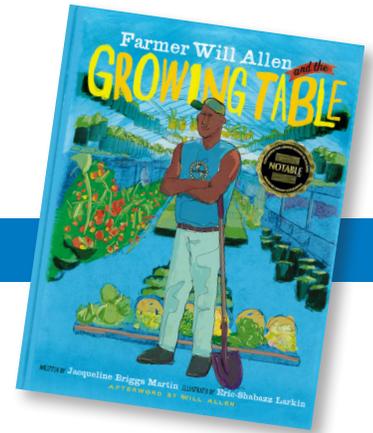


Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table



A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

Themes: Urban Farming, Agriculture, Healthy Living, Community, Problem Solving

Book Brief: A former basketball star turned farmer has a vision to feed millions of people by starting farms in urban communities.

Author: Jacqueline Briggs Martin

Illustrator: Eric-Shabazz Larkin

Content Connections: Science, Social Studies, Math

TIME TO READ!



BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

The Cover: Based on the title and cover illustration, what do you think the book will be about? What do you think a “growing table” is?

The Pictures: Flip briefly through the pages. What do the pictures tell you about where the story takes place and the author’s purpose?

Prior Knowledge: Discuss the differences between *urban* and *rural* settings. Make a chart or diagram on

the board to list characteristics and examples of each. Is your school community urban or rural? Ask students which setting comes to mind when they hear the word “farming.”

Vocabulary: white-shirt work, composting, hoop houses, vertical farm

Purpose for Reading: As we read, think of the *sensory images* the author uses in the book. What does the story help you see, taste, hear, and smell in your mind?



WHILE WE READ

MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ Why are meals such a bonding experience for people?
- ◆ Have you ever heard of a “food desert”? What do you think that term might mean?
- ◆ What obstacles does Will face?

- ◆ What would make basketball more exciting than farming?
- ◆ What makes the food Will’s farms produce unique?
- ◆ Do you think Will’s goal is reasonable? Why or why not?

LET'S THINK ABOUT

Our Purpose: How did you use sensory images to deepen your understanding of the story? Were you able to transport yourself into the story and become a part of the growing table?

Extending Our Thinking: Can one person’s dream really make a difference? Explain. Can you think of other examples of people who have had dreams to make the world a better place? How was the scientific process used in this book? Explain the steps.

NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.



Reading Is Fundamental