

Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table

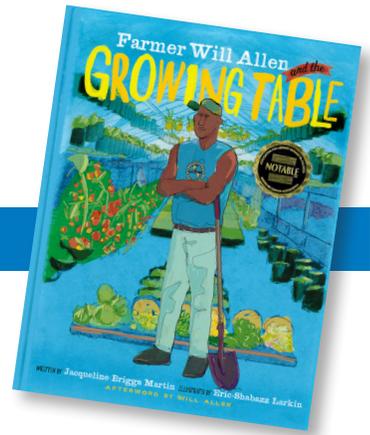
A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

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



TIME TO READ!

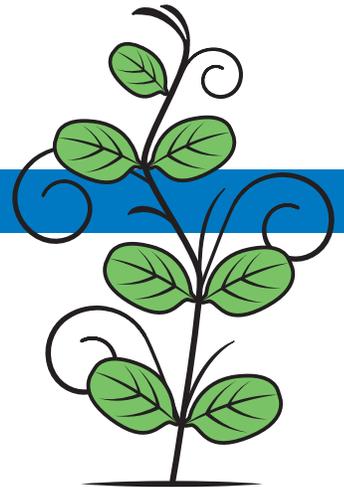
Before reading, make inferences: Based on the cover illustration, think about what you can tell about Will Allen and the type of farmer he is. What kind of farm

does he have? Where do you think his farm is?

While reading, make connections: What are some of your favorite foods? Have you ever grown a plant? Have you ever dug for worms? If so, what did you notice about the soil?

After reading, ask questions:

- ◆ How is *urban*, or city, farming different from *rural*, or country, farming?
- ◆ Why does Will care so much about growing food?
- ◆ What resources did he need for his urban farm to be successful?
- ◆ What are some ways you can make a difference in other people's lives?



RELATED ACTIVITIES

PIZZA POTS

Materials: 4 milk jugs; rocks; soil; marker; basil, oregano, pepper, and tomato seeds

Clean out empty milk jugs and cut off the tops to make recycled planting pots. Line the bottom of the jugs with rocks. Fill jugs with soil. Plant each different type of seed in separate jugs. Label what seed you planted on the outside of the jug. Visit www.almanac.com/content/information-about-plants-vegetables-herbs-fruit-guides for tips on how to help your seeds grow. When your veggies and herbs are ready to harvest, use them as fresh ingredients for a homemade pizza!

A GIFT THAT GROWS

Materials: paper, seeds, glue, markers

Brighten someone's day and the earth at the same time. Make a homemade card out of recycled material.

Use seeds to decorate by gluing them onto the card. Send the card to a special someone along with instructions for them to plant the card when they have finished reading it. Soon, your card may give more than just a smile!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

OTHER BOOKS ABOUT URBAN FARMING

EIEIO: How Old MacDonald Got His Farm, Judy Sierra (2014)
The Patchwork Garden, Diane de Anda (2013)
The Curious Garden, Peter Brown (2009)



Reading Is Fundamental