

How Many Seeds in a Pumpkin?

A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

Themes: Fall, Counting, Estimation

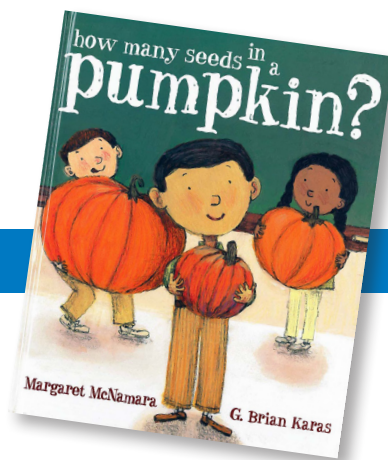
Grade Level: K to 1st grade

Book Brief: With the help of his teacher, Charlie discovers that good things really do come in small packages.

Author: Margaret McNamara

Illustrator: G. Brian Karas

Content Connections: Math, Science



TIME TO READ!

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

The Cover: Have children predict what the book will be about based on the title

and the front cover illustration. What do you notice about the pumpkins the children are holding? Where are they?

The Pictures: Take a brief picture walk. Ask the students to guess which pumpkin will have the most seeds based on the illustrations.

Prior Knowledge: How many students have ever scooped out a pumpkin? What was inside? What did it feel like? What kind of plant is a pumpkin? Why is it full of slimy pulp?

Vocabulary: blackboard, smocks, caps, slimy, stringy

Purpose for Reading: "As we read, focus on making connections. How does Mr. Tiffin teach his class to count? How are the strategies his class uses to count like ones we use in our class?"

WHILE WE READ

MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ Why do you think the children line up by size?
- ◆ What is another word for guessing an amount?
- ◆ Which pumpkin do you think holds the most seeds? Why?
- ◆ Why is Charlie the only student in the tens group?



LET'S THINK ABOUT

Our Purpose: "What strategies did Mr. Tiffin's class use that we also use in our classroom? Give some examples of when we use them and why."

Extending Our Thinking: Ask these open-ended questions: "What can you *infer*—or figure out—about Robert from the story?" "Why did Mr. Tiffin choose those particular pumpkins?" "Which group would you have been in? Why?" "Does Charlie change from the beginning of the story to the end? How?" "What did you learn about pumpkins from this story?"

NOTE TO EDUCATORS

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



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