

The Tiny Seed

by Eric Carle

It doesn't matter how small you are, you can still do big things is a theme that is beautifully illustrated and charmingly told throughout as a seed wonders if it will ever catch up to the bigger ones.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *If you were a seed, what would you like to grow into?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder what the flower is made out of?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words in *The Tiny Seed*

- rays: narrow beam of light
- ocean: a large sea made of salt water
- drowns: to die by immersion in water
- desert: an area of land, usually very hot
- settle: to decide on something or come to an agreement
- weed: an unwanted plant, that grows in the wild
- bud: the unopened part of the flower
- shadow: the darkened shape of something in light
- looms: an appearance of something large
- petals: the colored part of a flower

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What were the characteristics of the weather during autumn?
- What happened when the seed flew up to the sun? What did the other seed do?
- Why didn't the little seed make it to the mountain?
- Where did one of the seeds drown? What was the little seed doing?
- What was a desert? Why did the seed not grow?
- What did the bird do to the seed?
- Describe what the weather looked like during winter?
- How many seeds started to grow in the ground during the spring?
- What smashed the seed? Why couldn't it grow anymore?
- Which seed grew faster? What happened to the bigger flower?
- What happened to the little seed during the summer? How tall did the flower grow?
- Who visited the flower as it grew all summer?
- What happened to the flower when autumn came again? The seeds?



Do

Paper Mache Flower

You will need: an assortment of tissue paper, glue, paper plates and a paint brush

After reading the story, hand each child a plate, paint brush, liquid glue and some tissue paper. Allow the children enough time to tear the tissue paper and glue on the plate to create a flower. After the tissue paper has dried, if desired, attach the flower head to a green stem (either out of pipe cleaners or green construction paper).