

LESSON TITLE: *Growing a Community*

Recommended Grade Level: K-5th*

Time Allotted: 20 minutes

Of Participants: Class size: 10-30

Life Skill: Working as a team to bring about healthy change in a community

Character Focus: Self-responsibility, decision-making, teamwork, empathy

Integrated Curriculum Concepts:**

- Nutrition: Identifying fruits and vegetables that grow in a garden setting
- Language Arts: Active listening, following instructions
- Health Science: Understanding what plant life needs to grow and thrive
- Social Studies: Understanding the process of a project

Key Concepts:

- Why gardens are an important part of a healthy lifestyle
- How to care and nurture gardens so they produce a plentiful harvest
- How healthy, home grown foods bring a community together

What you need for the Lesson:

- *Growing a Community* book

Getting Ready:

- Read and familiarize yourself with the book

Note to Helper:

- The more animated you make the story and the more genuine your reaction is to how “smart” the children are, the more engaged they will be
- Depending on group size, you may wish to have them gather around in a reading area as you read aloud and show the illustrations

* This story is written in a manner that is easily understood by younger children, who will enjoy listening during reading time. Older children (grades 3-5+) will learn valuable knowledge from reading this story aloud, preferably to younger peers, so they can practice peer leadership skills. All age groups can work together in any gardening activities as well.

** Reminder: To check out state specific curriculum standards for this story and all OrganWise Guys materials, visit <https://organwiseguys.com/curriculum/>.

Lesson Plan:

What you Say:	What you Do:	What Participants Do:
Today we are going to hear the story of how the simple idea of creating a community garden not only brought healthy fruits and vegetables to a neighborhood, but also made Thursdays a day everyone looks forward to!	Show the cover of the book and then begin the story.	Sit quietly and listen until interactive parts of book.
Let's get started!	As you read the book, have the children follow along and answer any questions or interact if they are supposed to.	Sit quietly and listen until interactive parts of book.
What made Hardy Heart think that a community garden would be such a great idea? (ANSWER: The OWG had a successful one at their clubhouse/it produced A LOT of food)	Call on children who have raised their hands to answer the question.	Respond and answer questions by raising hands.
What was the first thing they did to get this project moving? (ANSWER: They held a community meeting/Sir Rebrum organized an agenda)	Call on children who have raised their hands to answer the question.	Respond and answer questions by raising hands.
What kind of response did they get for their meeting? How interested were the grown-ups? (ANSWER: [1] They had a full house!; [2] Very interested!)	Call on children who have raised their hands to answer the question.	Respond and answer questions by raising hands.
What did they use to plan out the items they intended to grow? (ANSWER: A planogram)	Call on children who have raised their hands to answer the question.	Respond and answer questions by raising hands.
What activities did they do initially on Thursdays before it was time to harvest? (ANSWER: Watered, weeded, etc.)	Call on children who have raised their hands to answer the question.	Respond and answer questions by raising hands.
What were some of the other benefits of this project? (ANSWER: Closer relationship with neighbors, more sense of community, etc.)	Call on children who have raised their hands to answer the question.	Respond and answer questions by raising hands.