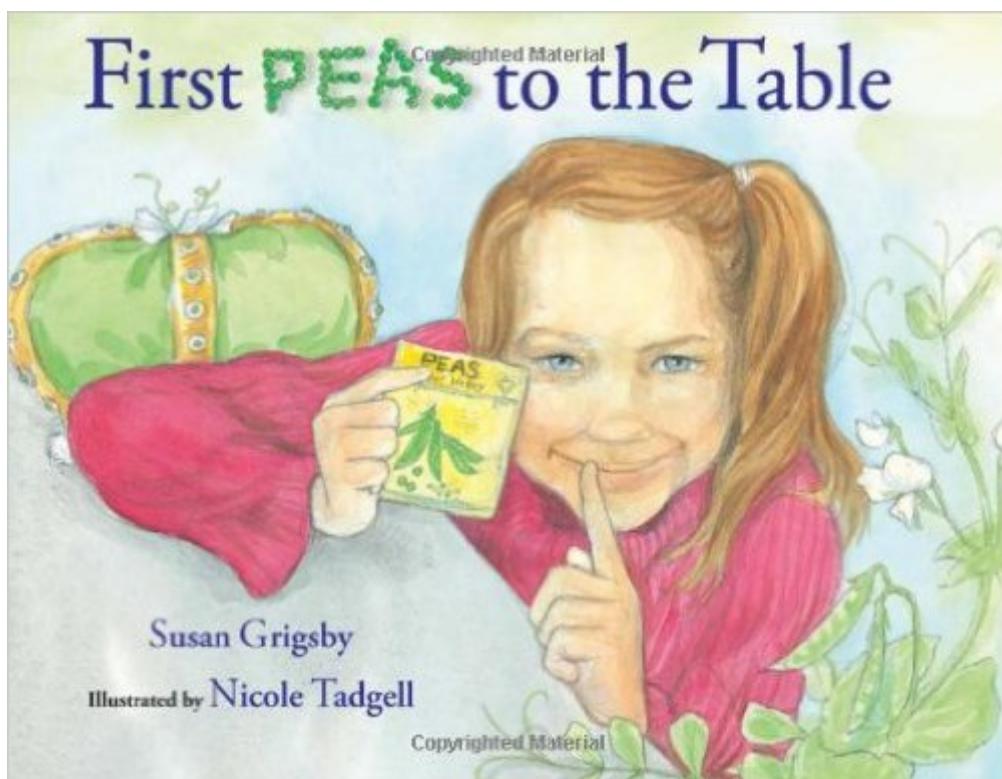


The book was found

First Peas To The Table: How Thomas Jefferson Inspired A School Garden



Synopsis

Maya loves contests, so she is excited when her teacher announces they will plant a school garden like Thomas Jefferson's garden at Monticello--and they'll have a "First Peas to the Table" contest, just like Jefferson and his neighbors had each spring. Maya plants her pea seeds with a secret head start--found in Jefferson's Garden Book--and keeps careful notes in her garden journal. But her friend Shakayla has plans of her own for the contest...Susan Grigsby's light-hearted classroom story also presents scientific and historical information. Nicole Tadgell's watercolors add both appeal and botanical accuracy.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 780L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (6 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #401,378 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #175 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Biographies > United States #2702 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > School

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

Customer Reviews

We had the pleasure of visiting this author's vegetable garden. Susan Grigsby is an incredibly sweet and down to earth person. She gave a copy of her book to my daughter, and showed us the pea plants growing in her garden. I thought the book would be a little too advanced for my daughter's reading level but she absolutely loves it. We read it every night. The book has many layers of lessons, from interracial friendships to healthy competition, and learning about the joy of gardening, as well as the story of a president. As a result of the book, I hear my four year old say on a fairly routine basis, "these peas are as sweet as sugar, mommy! I love peas." We also got some dry peas and soaked and grew them exactly as described in the book. It is a joy to see a little kid develop a

relationship with 'her' plant. This book facilitates so much learning in such a fun way that kids think it is fun to learn. This book has become my default birthday present to give to other kids in our circle. All the parents report that kids absolutely love this book.

This is an inspiring and engaging book for children and will motivate them to pick up gardening! Following in the footsteps of avid gardener Thomas Jefferson, the students of Ms. Garcia's class are given a challenge - a First Peas to the Table Contest, where the winner will be the first student to fill up a small bowl with peas harvested from the student's own pea plants. The prize is a beautiful emerald crown, and Maya can't wait to get started. The story follows Maya's failures and triumphs as she works diligently to get her little seedlings going, and in the process discovers not only the various complexities involved in producing a good crop, but a lesson about what really matters, and it is not about winning. The text is easily readable and the vocabulary did not pose much challenges for my first grader. She enjoyed reading this story, and we had a short discussion about the historical background to the story, and about Thomas Jefferson's pioneering methods in agriculture. We are now inspired to try the First Peas to the Table Contest for ourselves!

Ms. Garcia has challenged her students to grow peas in small garden plots at school, with the first student to fill a bowl with shelled peas winning a beautiful green crown. Both Maya and Shakayla really want to win the pea race, so they turn to their history books to learn about Thomas Jefferson's methods for testing which seeds and plants would grow best. Couched in a modern-day classroom tale, this picture book teaches children about Thomas Jefferson's innovations in farming methods and contributions to agricultural production. With a growing number of families becoming more cognizant of the health benefits of eating fresh fruits and vegetables, the book can help children better understand the feasibility of starting their own small gardens.

This looks like a fun book to read at the beginning of spring. However, I will read it to my second grade class after we read a bio about Thomas Jefferson. The illustrations look just beautiful!

I loved the book and the Ag. Farm Contest. I have lower grades doing a campus contest against each other. The sixth graders are entering the national contest! Loads of learning fun! Ann wonderful children's book

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