

*A Weed Is A Flower:  
The Life of George Washington Carver*

**Discussion Guide**  
Grades Pre-K-3

**Before Reading: to activate schema, build background knowledge, and set a purpose.**

- Discuss the importance of the life's work of George Washington Carver.
- Before reading, have a class discussion to activate prior knowledge about George Washington Carver. What is he best known for? How many things can you name that he helped develop to better our plant foods and other products. Make a list of student generated responses on an anchor chart or whiteboard.
- Frontload vocabulary: plant doctor, agriculture, curious, peanuts, scientist, experiment

**During Reading: to engage students, check for understanding, and make connections.**

- Why do you think the title of the book is "A Weed Is A Flower?"
- What does the story teach us about being curious, hardworking, & persistent in working toward one's goals?
- List the variety of plants George Washington Carver worked on, as well as other products he helped develop and improve.

**After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.**

Make a timeline of George Washington Carver's life. Start with his mother & him being kidnapped, continue through his time in college, and finish with many of the foods & products he helped develop and improve in his work as a scientist.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.