

# First PEAS to the Table

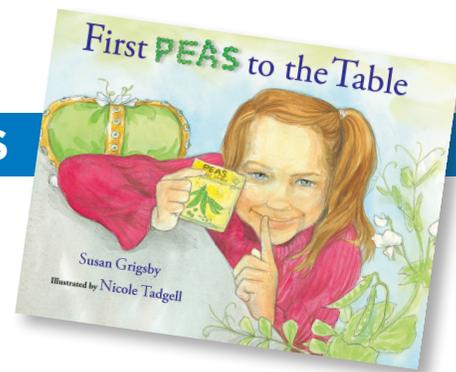
## A RIF GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY COORDINATORS

**Themes:** Life Cycle of Plants, Gardening, Presidential History, Friendship

**Book Brief:** This story connects Thomas Jefferson's garden pea contest to a gardening contest in a classroom 200 years later.

**Author:**  
Susan Grigsby

**Illustrator:**  
Nicole Tadgell



## TIME TO READ!

**Before reading:** Ask the children if they have ever tried to grow something. Did it grow? Why? Explain that this book is about a girl who has a garden contest to grow the most peas in her classroom garden just as Thomas Jefferson did with his friends 200 years ago.

## RELATED ACTIVITIES

### PLANTING PEAS (AGES 5-12)

Materials: pea seeds, potting soil, water, paper cups, craft sticks

Start a garden by filling a cup half full of potting soil. Use your finger to make a hole and place 2-3 seeds in it. Cover seeds with soil. Name the peas like Mya did; write name on craft stick and place in soil. Water as needed and let your garden grow!

### PASS THE PEAS, PLEASE! (AGES 5-12)

Materials: variety of peas (including fresh, canned, and frozen)

Using the five senses, taste and compare a variety of peas. Create a chart describing the different peas. Vote for the favorite pea to eat, and tally votes to determine the winner. Include parents and other staff as well.

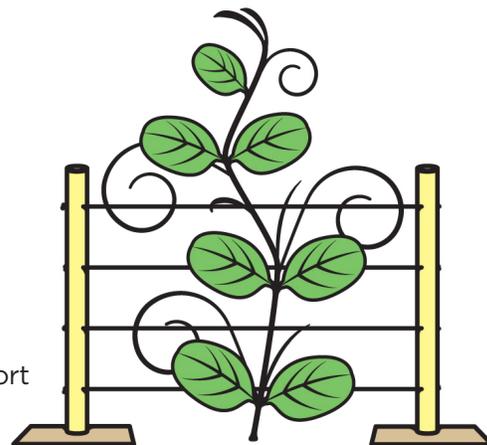


### DESIGN A TRELLIS (AGES 8-12)

Materials: string, drinking straws, masking tape, miscellaneous items (e.g., feathers, bells, ribbon, etc.)

Gardeners use trellises to support plants to help them grow

and keep away unwanted pests. In groups of 2 or 3, design a trellis for a garden using various objects creatively. Have each group present their trellis and tell how it is helpful to the plant.



## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### OTHER BOOKS BY THIS AUTHOR

*In the Garden with Dr. Carver* (2010)

### OTHER BOOKS ABOUT GARDENING

*Tops and Bottoms*, Janet Stevens (1995)

*Water, Weed, and Wait*, Edith Fine and Angela Halpin (2010)



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