MG SPROUTS Book List

1. ***Sunflower House*** By Eve Bunting, illustrated by Kathryn Hewitt, Voyager Books, Harcourt Brace & Company ©1996, ISBN-13: 978-0152019525

In this beautifully illustrated storybook, a boy sows seeds in a circle, plays with friends inside the circle of sunflowers, then collects the seeds for next year. This lesson includes group introductory activities and discussion establishing ground rules for an ongoing group.

Themes: Life cycles of plants, sharing, imagination, seed sowing and seed harvesting, seasons of the garden.

BIG Idea: Plants grow from seeds and seeds come from flowers.

2. ***Jack's Garden*** By Henry Cole, Harper Collins Children's Books, ©1995, ISBN-13: 978-0688152833

"This is the garden that Jack planted..." Based on the familiar rhyme story about the house that Jack built, this beautifully illustrated book follows Jack through the building of a garden.

Themes: Soil, weather, insects, life cycles, interdependence of living things.

BIG Idea: Plants grow in a natural and complex world filled with diversity.

3.***Compost Stew*** by Mary McKenna Siddals, illustrated by Ashley Wolff. Tricycle Press; © 2010. ISBN-13: 978-1582463162

From the inside cover, "From eggshells to wiggly worms, this delightful recipe in bouncy verse features items--some familiar and some not so--that are fit for the home compost bin and will nourish Mother Earth."
Themes: recycling, composting.

BIG Idea: Plants grow in soil and gardeners can help the earth by composting to make good soil for plants to grow in.

4.***The Ugly Vegetables*** by Grace Lin. Charlesbridge: © 2001; 32 pages. ISBN-13: 978-1570914911

A girl and her mother plant a garden. To the little girl, the neighbors' flowers seem much better than their plain green vegetables. Only after the neighbors come to share her mother's delicious vegetable soup does the girl gain an appreciation for the "ugly vegetables" from her garden.

Themes: Diversity, sharing, identity, community.

BIG Idea: Through gardening and growing plants we can express creativity, culture and promote sharing.

5. ***Plantzilla*** by Jerdine Nolen, illustrated by David Catrow. Silver Whistle, © 2002. 32 pages. ISBN-13: 978-0152053925

"Mortimer Henryson loves Plantzilla, the plant he's been taking care of all year in his third-grade classroom. He loves him so much, he takes him home for summer vacation. What could go wrong with a . . . plant? But life in the Henryson household soon takes a strange turn. A pot roast disappears, then steaks from the grill--and where has Mrs. Henryson's prize Chihuahua gone?" -Goodreads

Themes: Humor, responsibility, caring for living things.

BIG Idea: Caring for plants and other living things is engaging and an enjoyable experience.

6. ***The Tree Farmer*** by Chuck Leavell and Nicholas Cravotta, illustrated by Rebecca Bleau. 32 pages. Evergreen Arts; © 2010. ISBN-13: 978-061535520

A grandfather who owns a tree farm takes his grandson on a magical journey through the forest, where trees become musical instruments, books, a baby's crib and more. The story explains the vital role that trees play in our lives, providing us with the wood for our homes, furniture and other products--and mankind's responsibility to protect and care for them. Co-authored by Chuck Leavell, musician, Georgia tree farmer, conservationist and longtime keyboardist for the Rolling Stones.

Themes: Value of forests and trees in our lives, connecting our role as stewards of natural resources.

BIG Idea: The things we grow and the ways we care for them can affect the health of the environment.