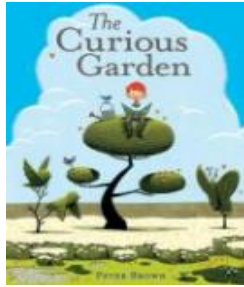


Curious Garden
By Peter Brown
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Summary: Liam lives in New York City. As he walks through the gray city he finds beauty in a small hidden garden. He carefully tends this garden and spreads color throughout the dreary city.

Common Core Objectives: English Language Arts Standards: Reading: Informational Text: Grade 2

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.2.1 Ask and answer such questions as *who*, *what*, *where*, *when*, *why*, and *how* to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.2.3 Describe the connection between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in technical procedures in a text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.2.7 Explain how specific images (e.g., a diagram showing how a machine works) contribute to and clarify a text.

Thematic Connections

- Environmentalism
- Urban Life
- Making a Difference

Activity

What is photosynthesis?

The Curious Garden changes the city not only by making it more beautiful, but also by making it a cleaner and healthier place to live.

1. Explore photosynthesis and discuss why it is important.
2. Help students understand the process by giving them the opportunity to act out the process in small groups.
3. Create cards printed with the words *plant*, *oxygen*, *carbon dioxide*, *sugar*, *water* and *sunlight*. Give the students in each group the cards and provide them with the reference materials to help them learn about photosynthesis.
4. After reading about photosynthesis, ask each group to act out the process. Their goal is to show (through role-play) the part each of the cards plays in photosynthesis.

Question to tie in *Curious Garden*:

1. In the *Curious Garden*, Liam is shown singing to plants. Why might singing or talking to plants help them grow?