

Illinois
AGRICULTURE
in the ClassroomSM

Year of Authentic Agriculture in Books
Kevin Daugherty-Director

Illinois **A**GRICULTURE in the ClassroomSM



20 - 20
26 - 27
CALENDAR

Photo by Illinois Farm Bureau photographer: Catrina Rawson*



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BACK TO SCHOOL with AGRICULTURE



School buses and school supplies can be paid for on credit cards. According to the U.S. Bureau of Economic and Planning, that's why it's printed on 75% cotton and 25% linen fiber.

Spiral, 11, paper and lighter boxes are typically laminated for use in food stores because of the thin metal foil layers that provide both softness and durability.



The winner supported by
AGRICULTURE
THE BRANDT FOUNDATION



California cedar trees are most commonly used to make pencils. It's ideal for the long-lasting pencils, and a minimum of 11 students, each carrying 1 new 1/2" pencil notebook use the wood from roughly one tree.



Corn starch is used in the production of many items being used daily to help in the efficiency of plastic production.



Pencil erasers can be made with an oil produced from flaxseed.



Farmers help provide the fuel for the school bus. It's made from corn, and the animal feed of the animals in the parent drop-off line.



Of course you can't eat apples all in some cases, but you'll get that from your apple pencil box, and knowing the pencil box is a learning material to help clean up the art room!



This will feed beef by products on the new bottles of glue, so use it in the classroom from those brand new glue sticks!

Always what to use for the school bag, bottles, glass, plastic, pencils, water, and Pringles (yes, Pringles) and those dairy farmers provide thousands of it just in case you have little white milk!

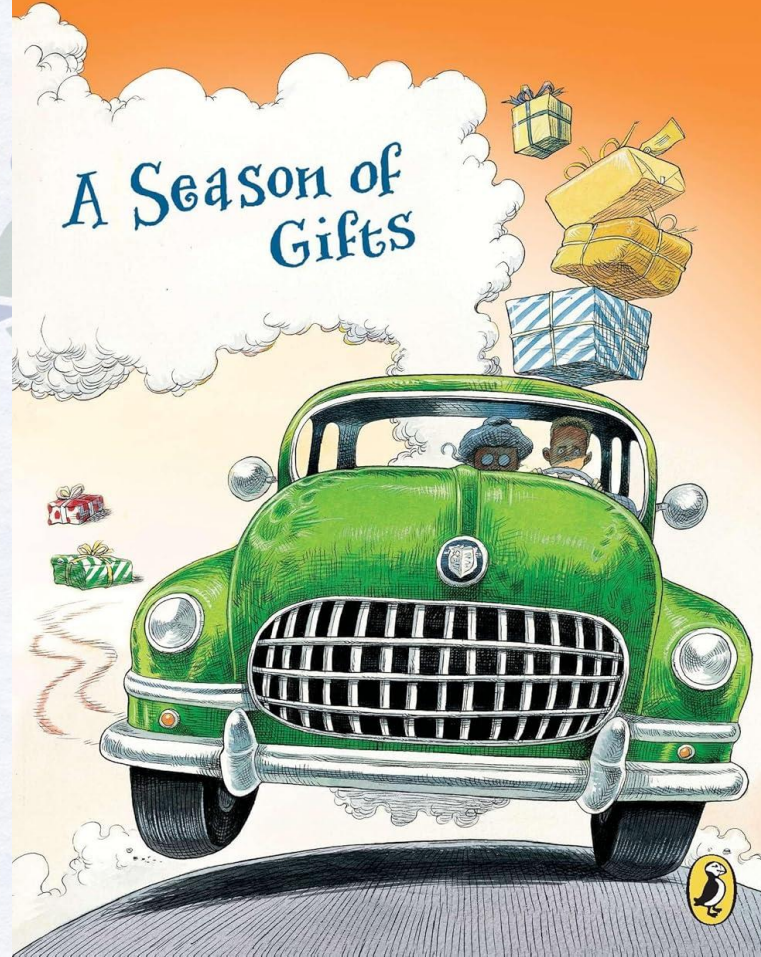


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NEWBERY AWARD WINNER AND
TWO-TIME NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FINALIST

RICHARD PECK

A Season of
Gifts



All

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GARY D. SCHMIDT

Newbery Honor winner and National Book Award finalist

THE
LABORS
OF
HERCULES
BEAL



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ALLUSIONS AND AGRICULTURE

An allusion is a brief mention of something or someone well known. Using an allusion lets you suggest ideas from an entire story in just a few words. Writers and speakers often make allusions to mythology, history, or literature.

Agriculture is the practice of growing crops and raising animals for food, clothing, and other products. Agriculture is the #1 industry in Illinois. About 75% of the land in Illinois is used for agriculture production.

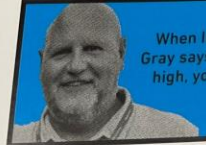
Chad Bell is a regular **EINSTEIN** when it comes to raising healthy pigs.



Kaylee Heap has the **MIDAS TOUCH** with growing giant pumpkins.



When Illinois farmer Shane Gray says he grew corn 20 feet high, you can see his **NOSE GROWING**.



WCIA 3 Meteorologist Jacob Dickey was a **GRINCH** with his weather forecast for planting season.

Dairy farmers like Sarah Lenkaitis get up early every morning – she might **TURN INTO A PUMPKIN** if she stays out too late at night!



Even Adam Thomas's **MERCULEAN EFFORTS** couldn't get the tractor out of his muddy soybean field.



Dr. Anthony Studer thinks he found the **GOLDEN TICKET** in a new variety of popcorn he and his students created at the U of I.



THIS RESOURCE SUPPORTED BY:

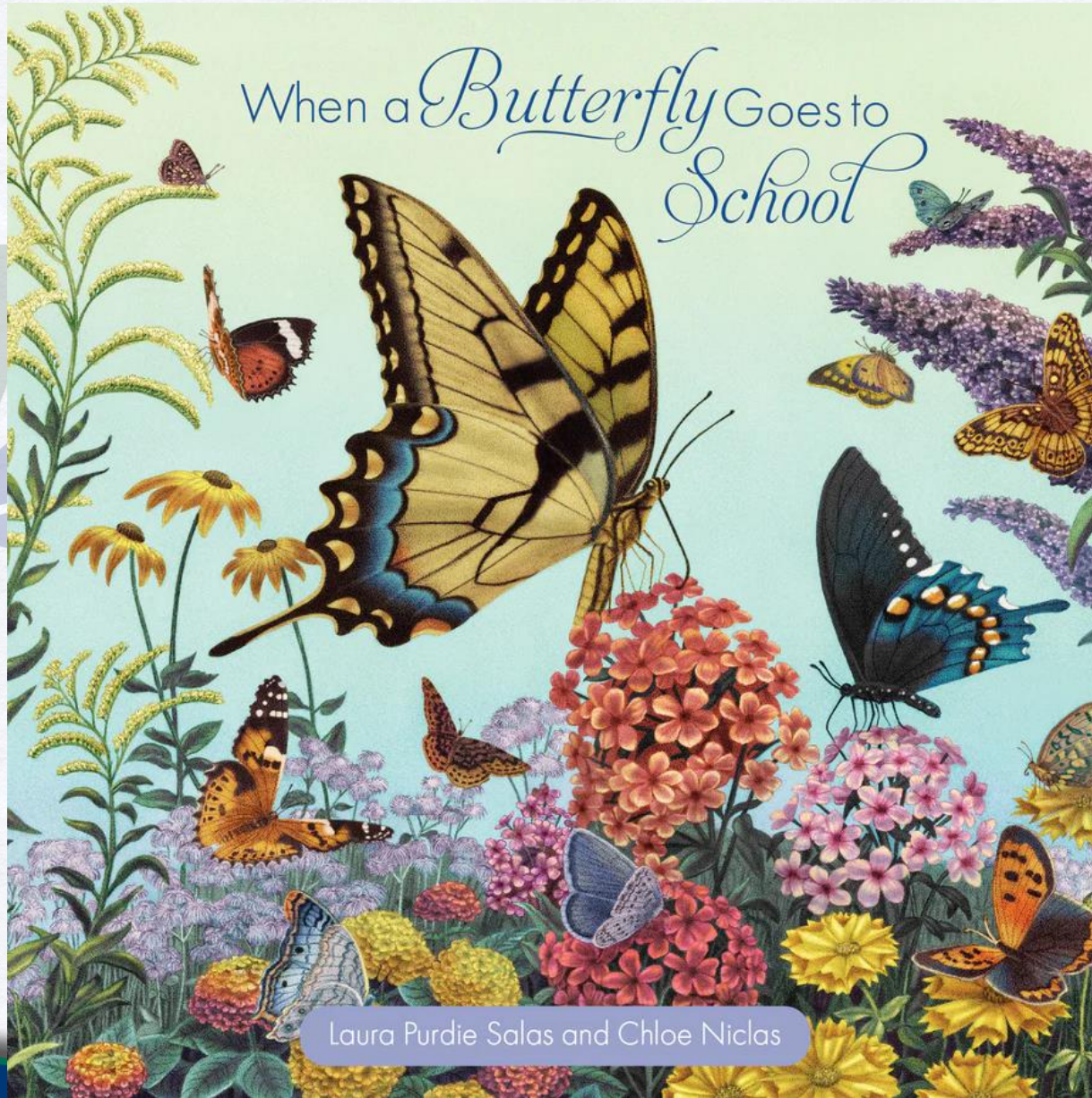


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REPTILE



When a *Butterfly* Goes to
School



Laura Purdie Salas and Chloe Niclas





AGRICULTURE
RoomSM

ILLINOIS APPLES

Zestar Fresh Eating, Applesauce, Cider, Baking Crisp, juicy, sweet	McIntosh Fresh Eating, Applesauce, Cider Creamy, aromatic, sweet	Rome Fresh Eating, Baking, Juicy, Versatile, Crisp Sweet, tart, firm, juicy	Arkansas Black Fresh Eating, Sweet, Tart Sweet, tart, firm, juicy	Red Delicious Fresh Eating Tough-skinned, sweet, juicy
Winesap Eating, Baking Tart, very firm, tender with clear flavor	TOP VARIETIES GROWN BY ORCHARDS IN IL		Jonagold Fresh Eating, Cider, Baking Crisp, juicy, tart, sweet, firm	Gala Fresh Eating, Applesauce, Baking Sweet, soft skin
Fuji Fresh Eating, Cider, Baking Juicy, crisp, sweet	Golden Delicious Fresh Eating, Applesauce, Cider, Baking Sweet, firm, crisp	Jonathan Fresh Eating, Applesauce, Cider, Baking Juicy, crisp, firm, tart, sweet	Cortland Fresh Eating, Baking Sweet	Braeburn Fresh Eating, Applesauce, Baking Crisp, aromatic, sweet, tart
Granny Smith Fresh Eating, Baking Crisp, very tart	EverCrisp Fresh Eating, Applesauce, Cider, Baking Tart, aromatic, sweet, tart	GoldRush Fresh Eating, Applesauce, Cider, Baking Sweet, aromatic, firm, crisp	Honeycrisp Fresh Eating, Applesauce, Cider, Baking Crisp, tart	

APPLE FACTS

- Americans eat an average of 15 pounds of apples per year.
- Since every apple seed is made of its own unique genetic material, you can plant 10 seeds from a single apple and get 10 entirely different kinds of apples.
- The only apple native to North America is the crabapple.
- The Illinois State Fruit is the GoldRush apple.
- Illinois has over 500 farms that grow apples on nearly 2,300 acres.
- Apples contain no fat, sodium, or cholesterol and are a good source of fiber.

Learn more about where to find Illinois apples at specialtygrowers.org/shop-local



ILLINOIS

Junior Ag Mag

An Apple A Day

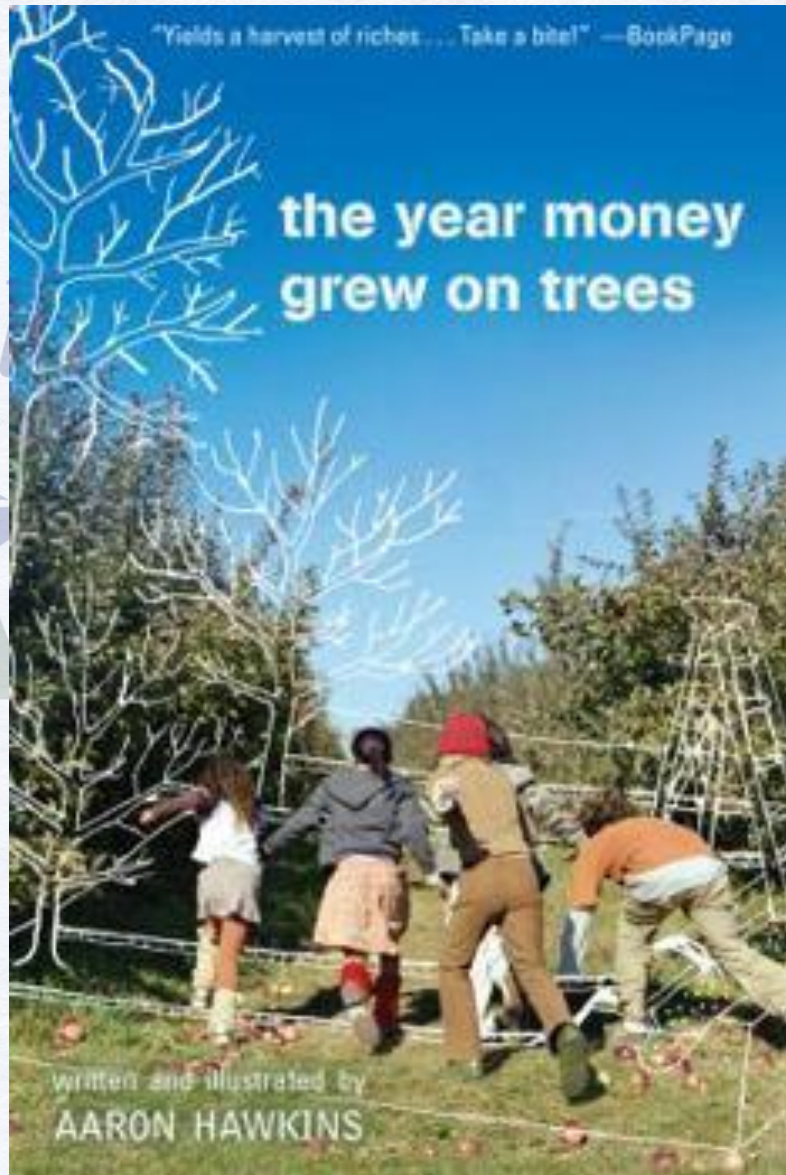
Have you heard the saying, "An apple a day keeps the doctor away"? Apples are a super healthy snack. Read more to learn how these amazing fruits are grown.



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"Yields a harvest of riches.... Take a bite!" —BookPage

the year money grew on trees

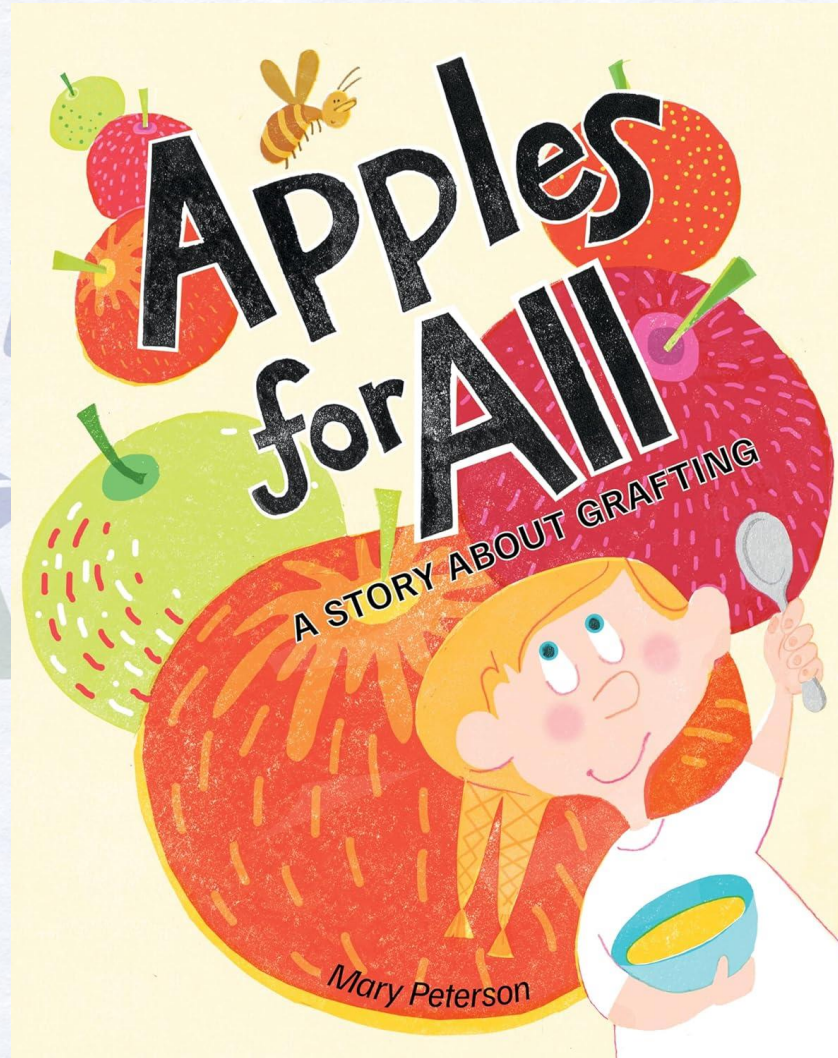


written and illustrated by
AARON HAWKINS



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THE SEASONS OF
ARNOLD'S APPLE TREE
by GAIL GIBBONS



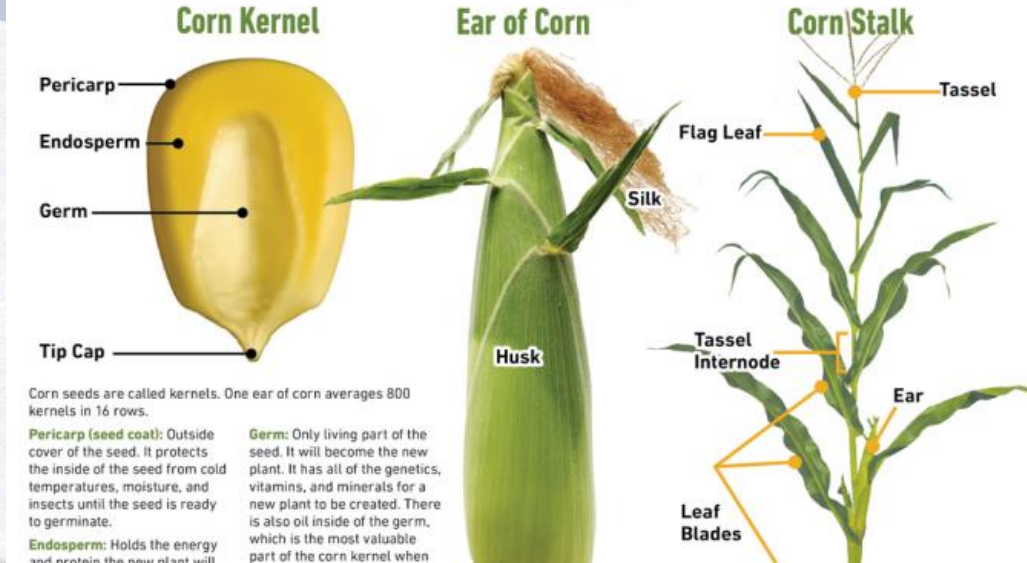


CORN IS EVERYWHERE

IN ILLINOIS, THERE IS A LOT OF FARMLAND.
About 27 MILLION ACRES, or about 75% of all the land in the state, is used for farming. One ACRE is about the size of a football field. Every year, around 11 million acres in Illinois are used to grow corn, but not just the kind of corn you eat on the cob in the summer. Most of the corn grown here is called field corn or dent corn.

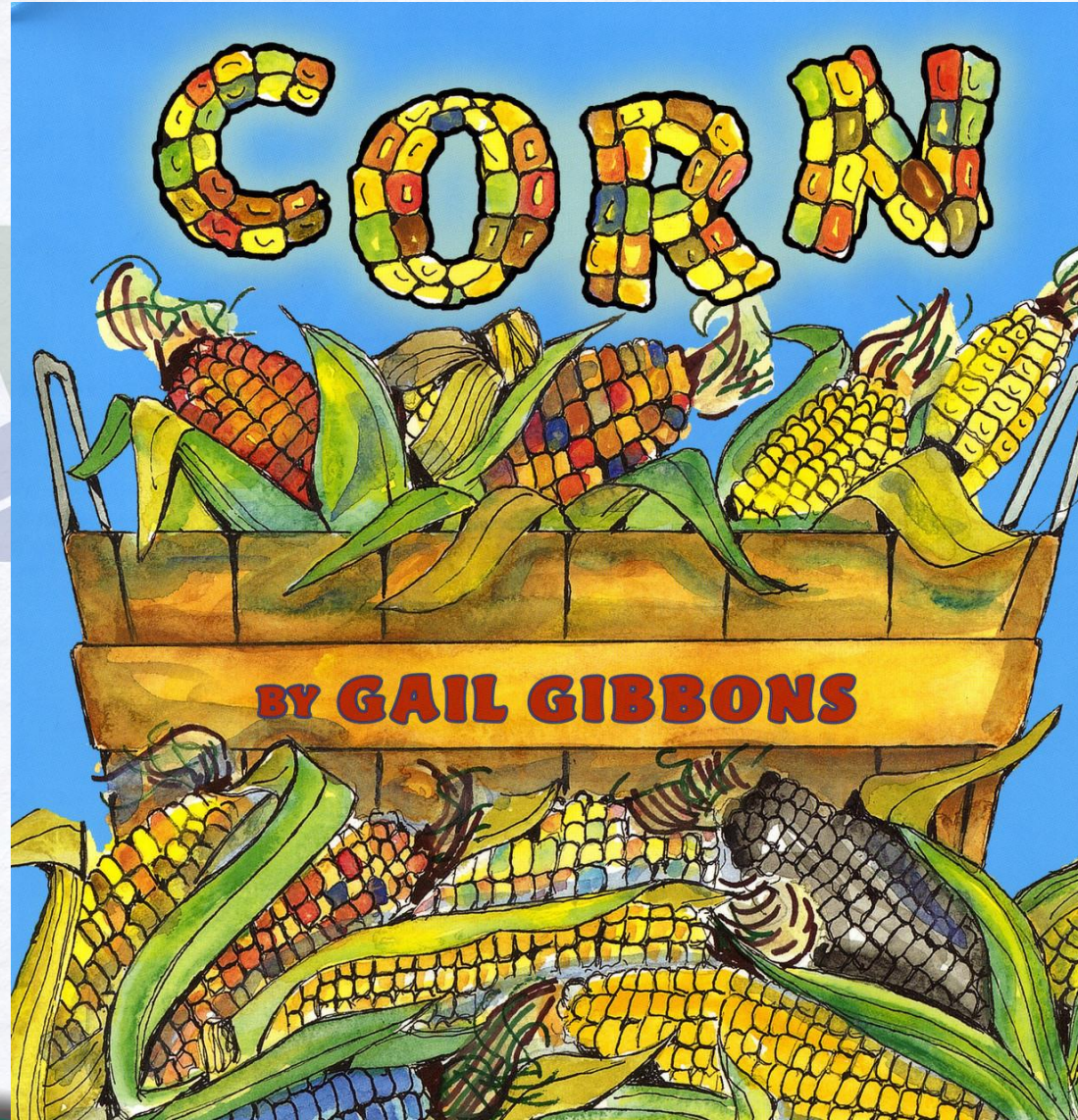
This type of corn is made into products we use every day. This is called processing, which means turning field corn into different things we can use. The corn is soaked in water and ground up so that different parts can be separated. From this, we can make things like cornstarch, cooking oil, sweeteners, cereal, drinks, and even fuel for cars. There are more than 4,000 different things made from corn, and people are still finding new uses for it!

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT CORN



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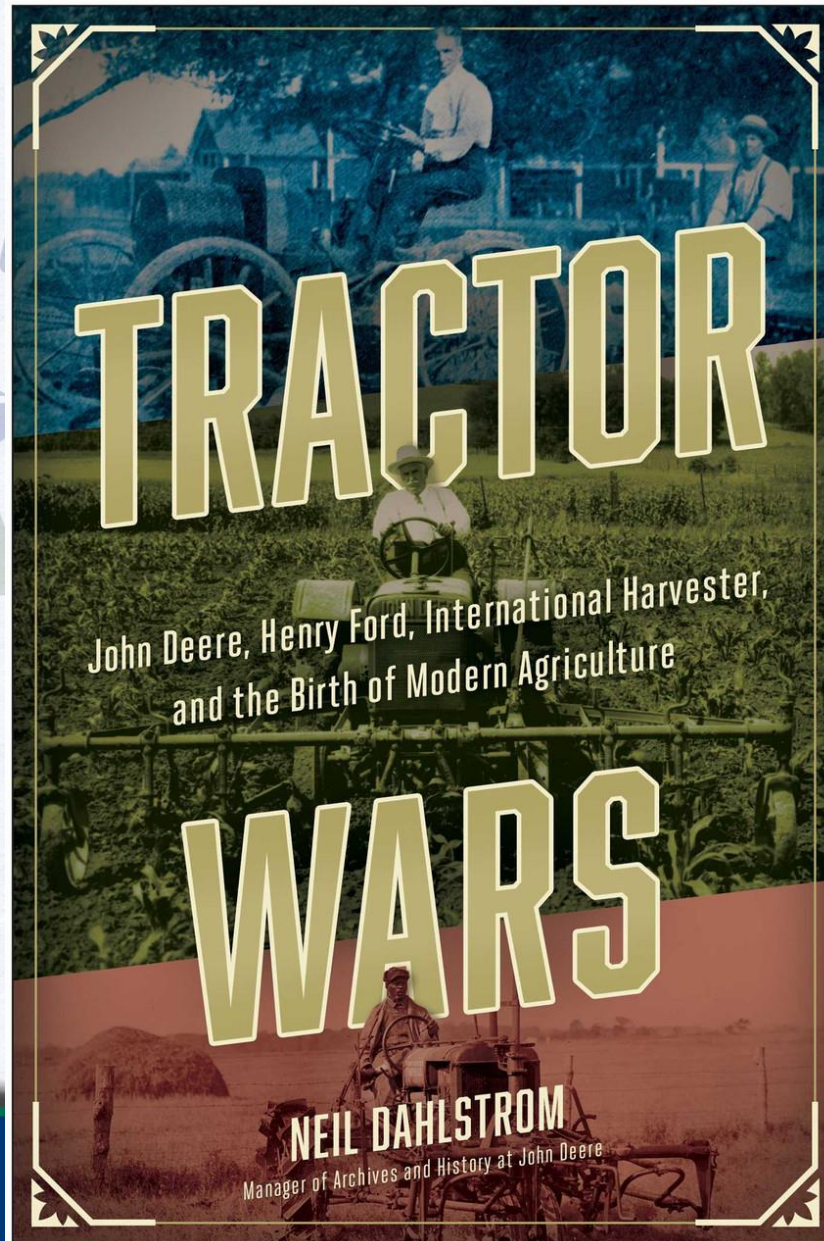


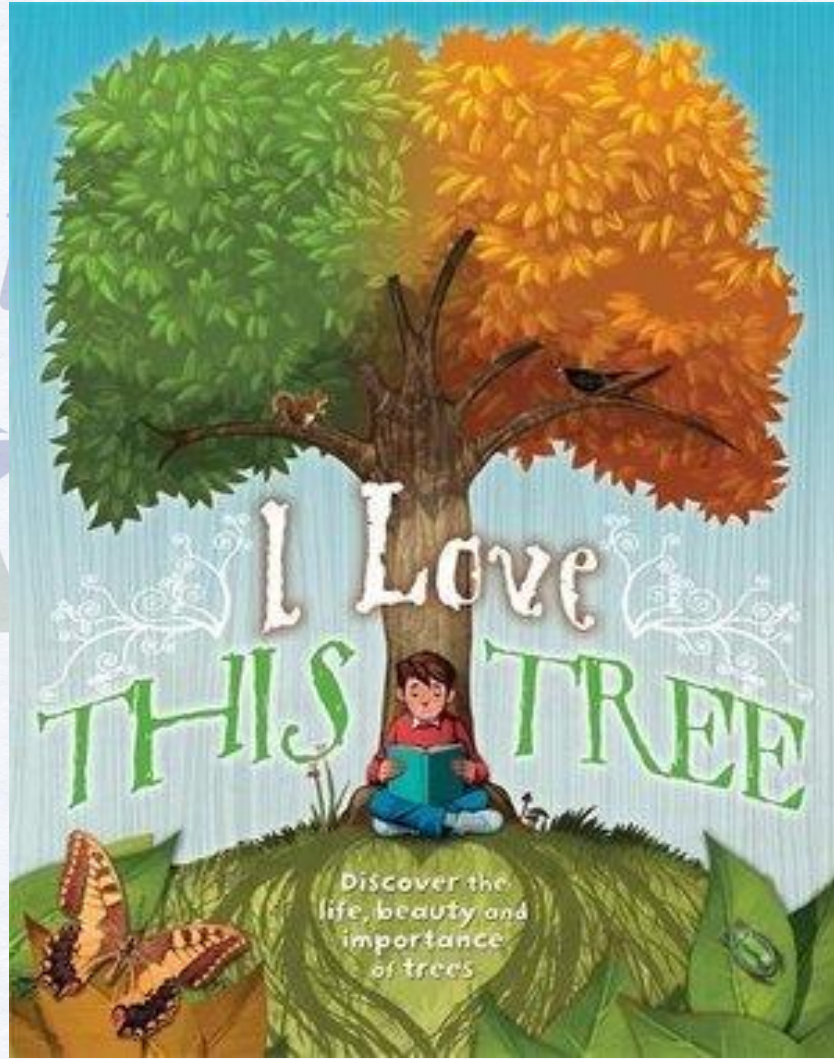
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FOOTBALL AND AGRICULTURE

Soft Pretzels

Pretzels are made with wheat flour and vegetable oil.



Hot Dogs

That game day hot dog includes pork and beef in a wheat bun with ketchup from tomatoes and relish from cucumbers.



Nachos & Cheese

Nachos are made from food grade corn flour topped with cheese made from dairy cows.



Peanuts & Popcorn

Peanuts and popcorn are both grown by farmers, and your popcorn is typically popped in soybean oil!



Football

Most footballs used today are covered with a leather outside made from the hide of cattle. Twenty footballs can be made from the hide of one cow.



Tickets, Programs, & Schedules

These are printed on paper from trees and possibly use soy ink made from soybeans.



Uniforms

Uniforms are made from cotton blends. Your lucky team shirt and your favorite team sweatshirt are also made of cotton.



Chewing Gum

Gum comes from the tropical gum tree with sugar and corn syrup added as sweeteners.

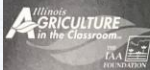


Soda

Many of your favorite sodas are sweetened with corn syrup.



This resource supported by:



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Illustration

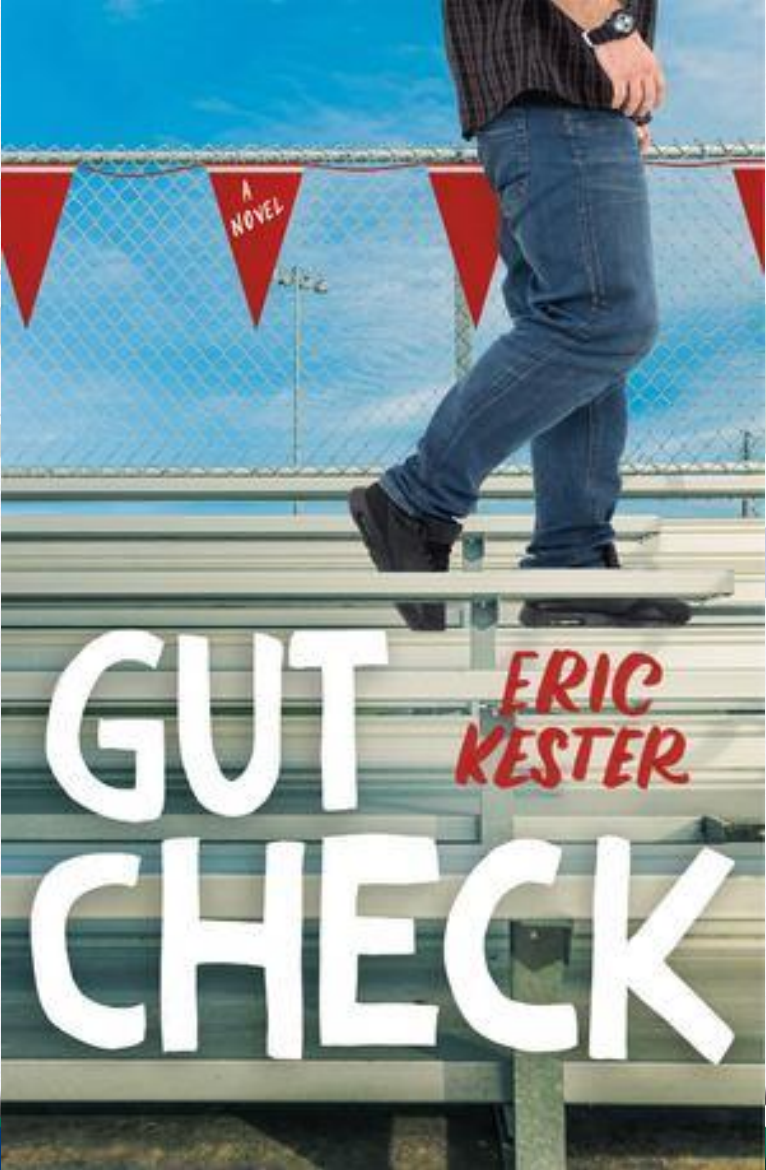


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ILLINOIS PUMPKINS

PIE

- Small, orange pumpkins, perfect for children to pick up and enjoy
- Sweetened with a high sugar content, ideal for homemade pumpkin pie

JACK-O-LANTERN

- Round, orange pumpkins in a variety of sizes
- Popular for carving and lantern making, also used as lanterns at Halloween

PROCESSING

- Large, oblong, tan pumpkins
- Grows for commercial processing, their covered pumpkins

WHITE

- Popular for fall decorating

MINIATURE

- They pumpkins and gourds in a variety of shapes and sizes
- Popular for fall decorating

GIANT

- Huge pumpkins sometimes weighing 1000 pounds
- Popular for pumpkin growing competitions

SPECIALTY

- Wide variety of colors, textures, and uses
- Used commonly for their unique color in decoration
- Highly prized for baking and cooking pie, soups, breads, and more
- Popular varieties include Blue Hubbard, Cinderella, and Fairy Tale

TYPES OF PUMPKINS

PUMPKIN FACTS

Pumpkins, squash, and gourds are all part of the Cucurbitaceae family, which contains over 100 genera and 700 species. Plants in this family have been recorded by humans with food and other useful objects since before recorded history.

All pumpkins are technically squash, but not all squash are considered pumpkins!

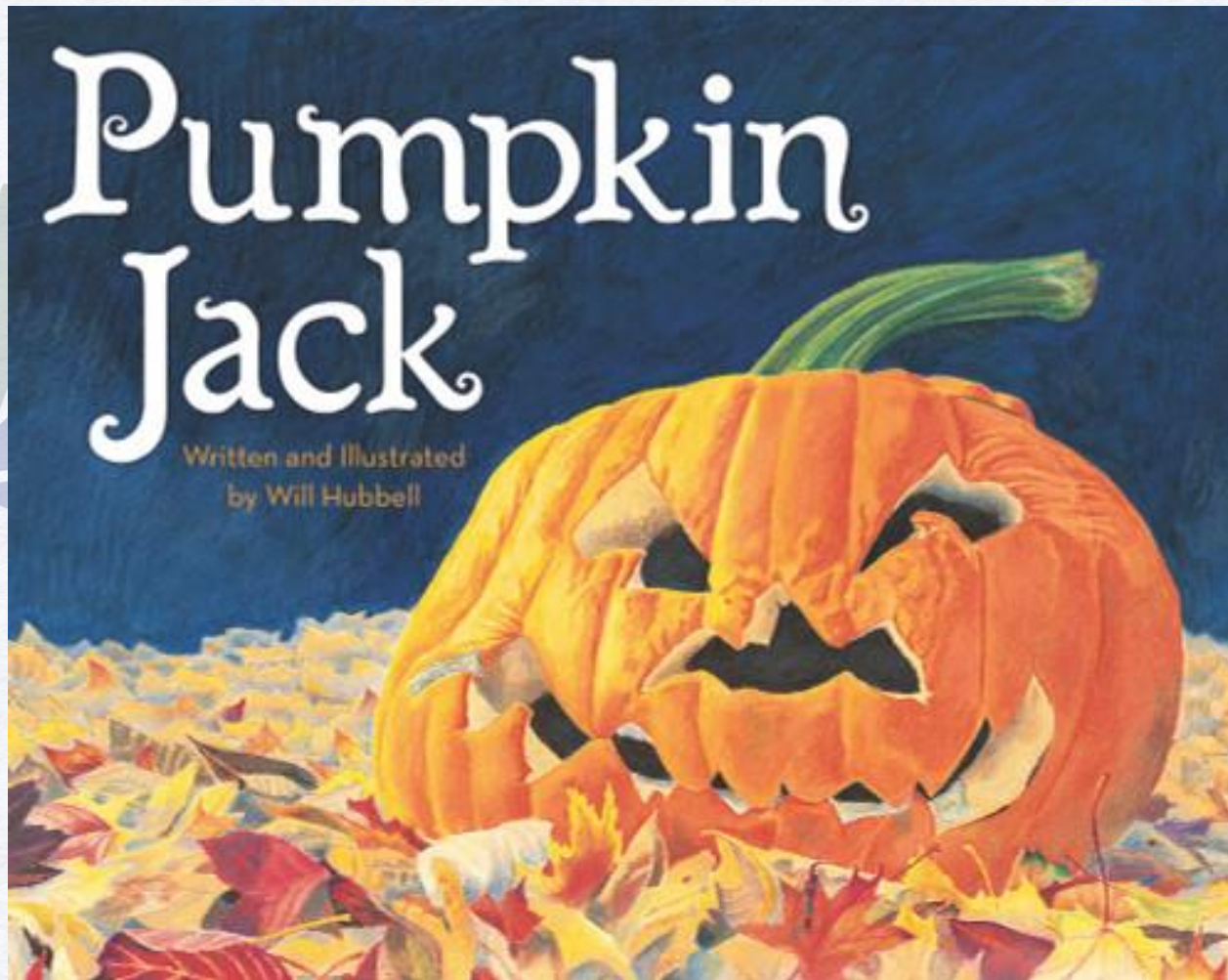
PUMPKIN STATS

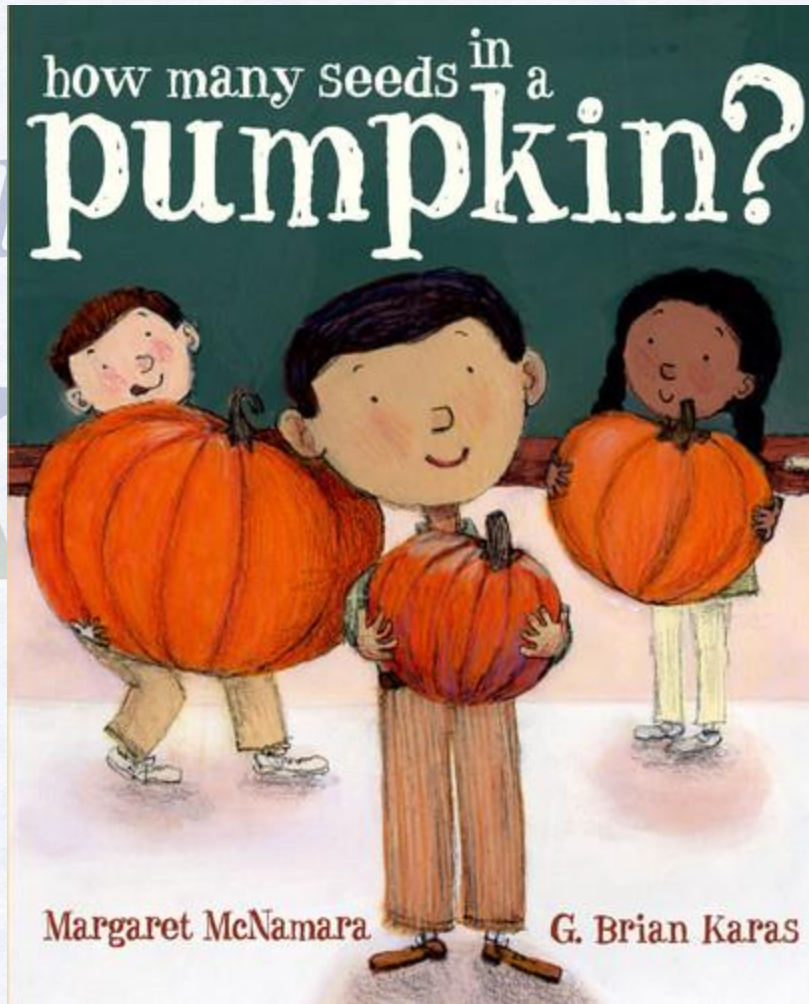
- In 1952, the world's canned pumpkin is processed in Morton, IL.
- The heaviest pumpkin ever grown weighed 2,702 lbs.
- The largest pumpkin pie ever was baked in 2010 and weighed 3,699 lbs.
- In 2021, farmers in Illinois harvested more than 15,900 acres of pumpkins, over twice that of any of the other leading states.
- Almost 80% of the pumpkins grown in Illinois are used for pie filling and other processing.

Learn more about where to find Illinois pumpkins at specialtygrowers.org/shop-local

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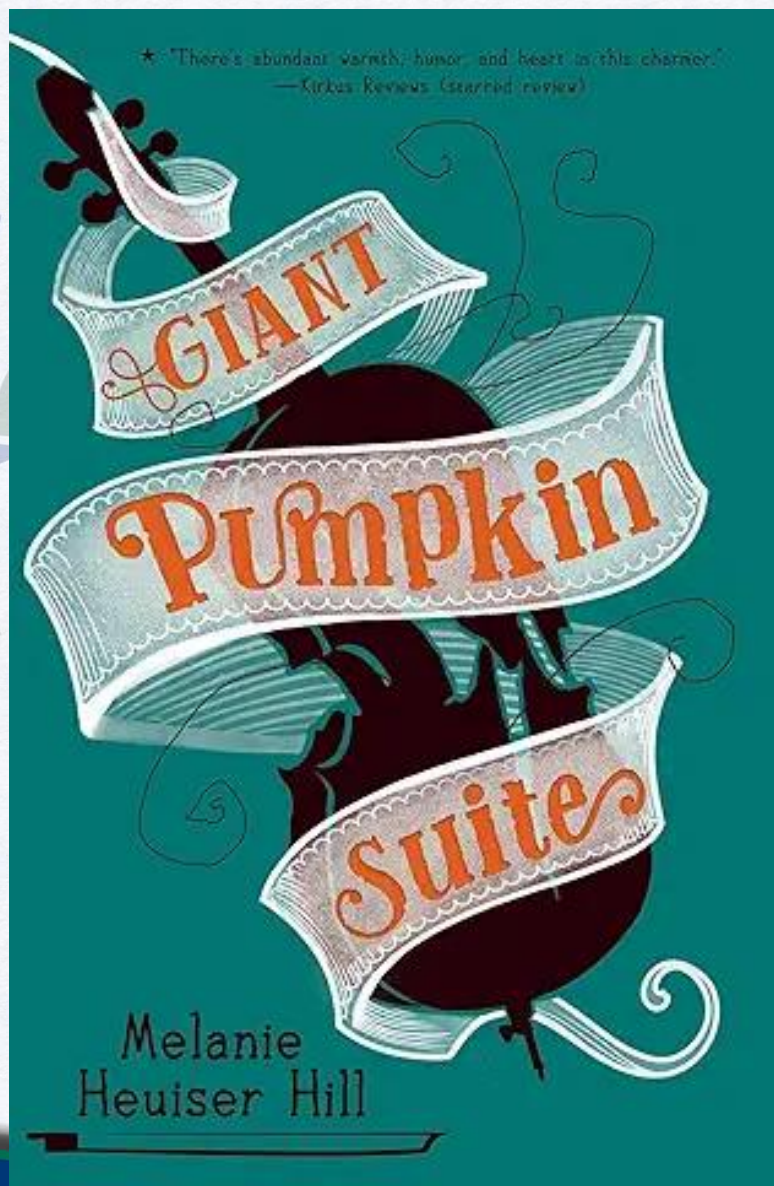






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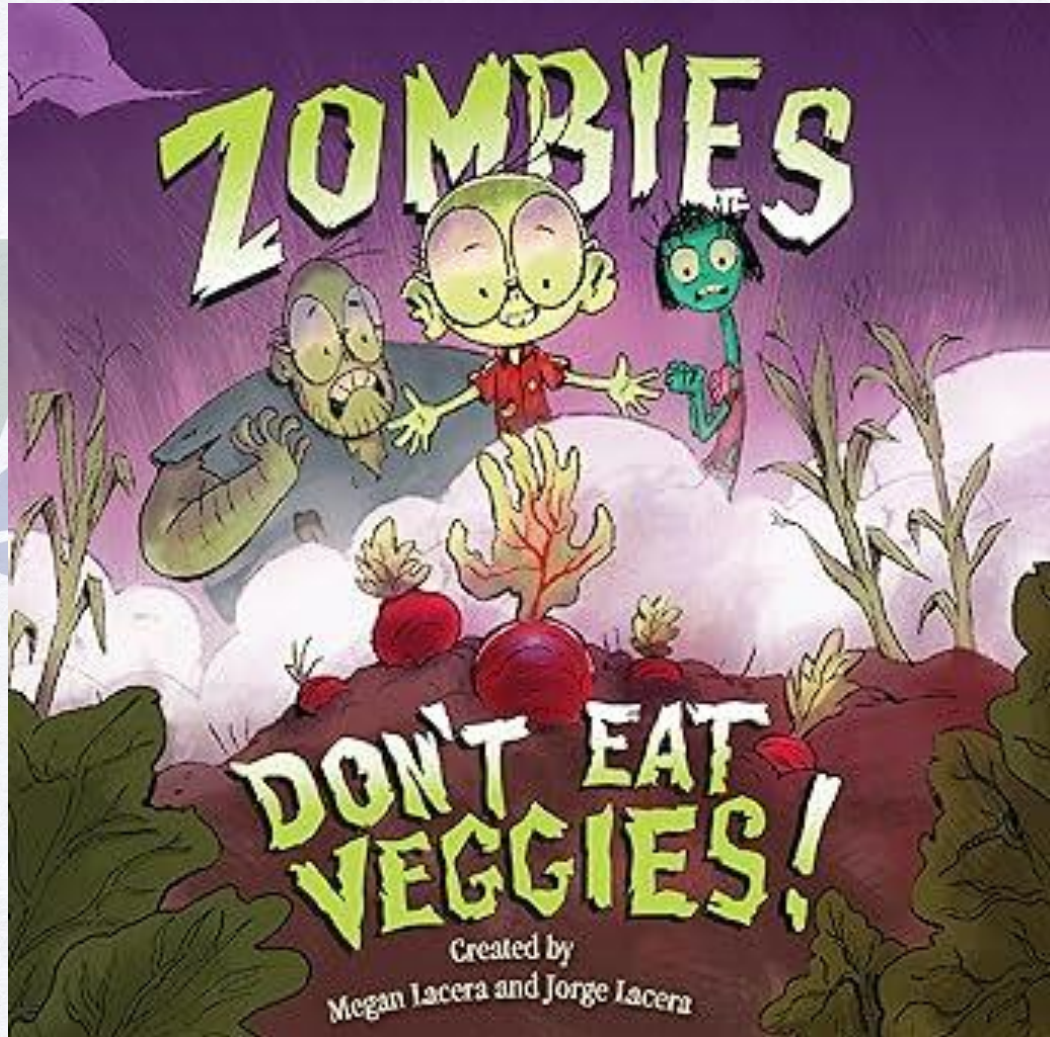


TOO MANY PUMPKINS

Linda White

illustrated by Megan Lloyd





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PIG 05049

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CHRISTIEN MEINDERTSMA

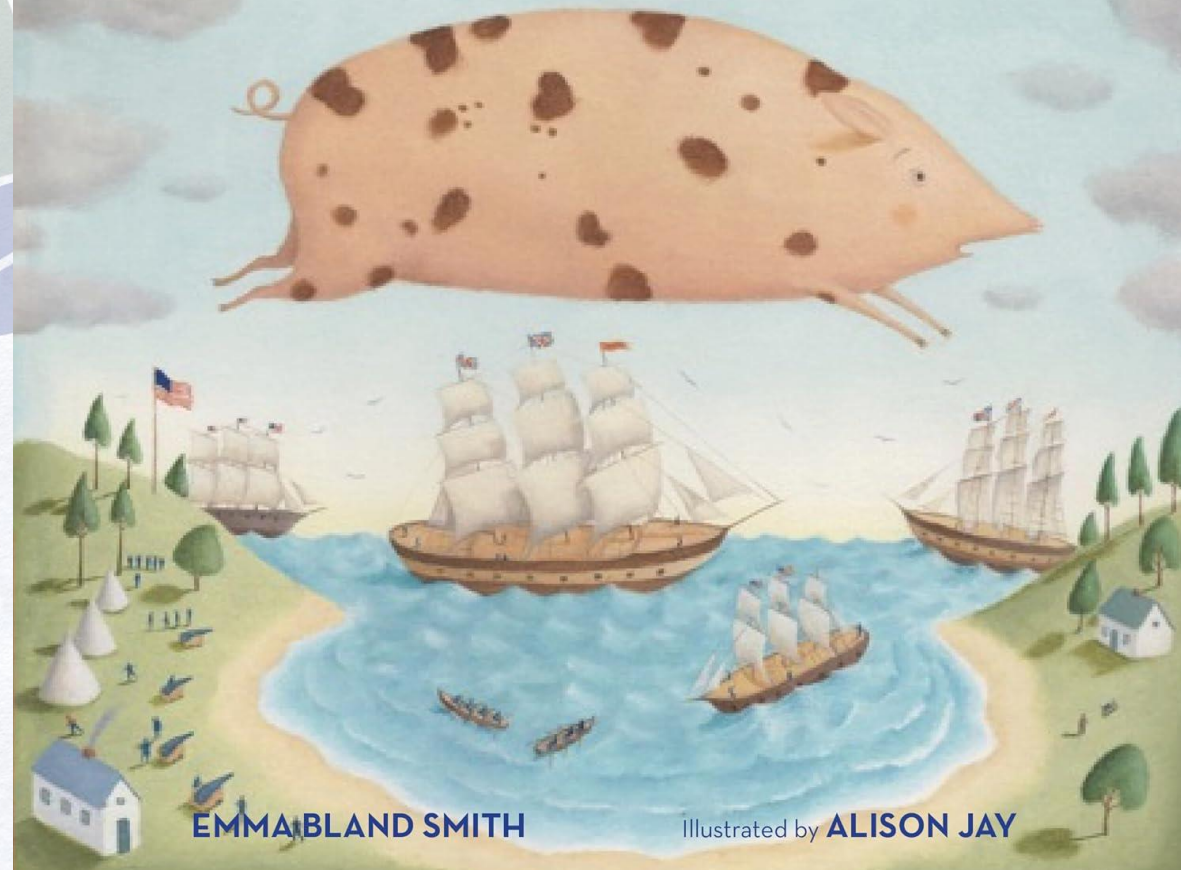
2010 Ted
Talk!

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THE PIG WAR

HOW A PORCINE TRAGEDY TAUGHT ENGLAND AND AMERICA TO SHARE



EMMA BLAND SMITH

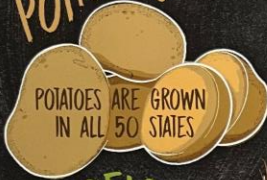
Illustrated by ALISON JAY



ILLINOIS FARMERS MARKETS

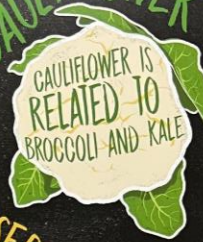
FALL & WINTER

POTATOES



POTATOES ARE GROWN IN ALL 50 STATES

CAULIFLOWER



CAULIFLOWER IS RELATED TO BROCCOLI AND KALE

ONIONS



BRUSSELS



SPROUTS

HORSE RADISH



11 BEEKEEPERS MAINTAIN OVER 30,000 HONEYBEE HIVES

HONEY



LETTUCE

MAPLE SYRUP



IT TAKES 40 GALLONS OF MAPLE SAP TO PRODUCE 1 GALLON OF SYRUP



WINTER SQUASH



EVERGREEN TREES TAKE 6-8 YEARS TO GROW TO "CHRISTMAS TREE" SIZE

CHRISTMAS TREES

THIS RESOURCE SUPPORTED BY



FIND A LOCAL FARMERS MARKET NEAR YOU!



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FEED THE CHILDREN FIRST

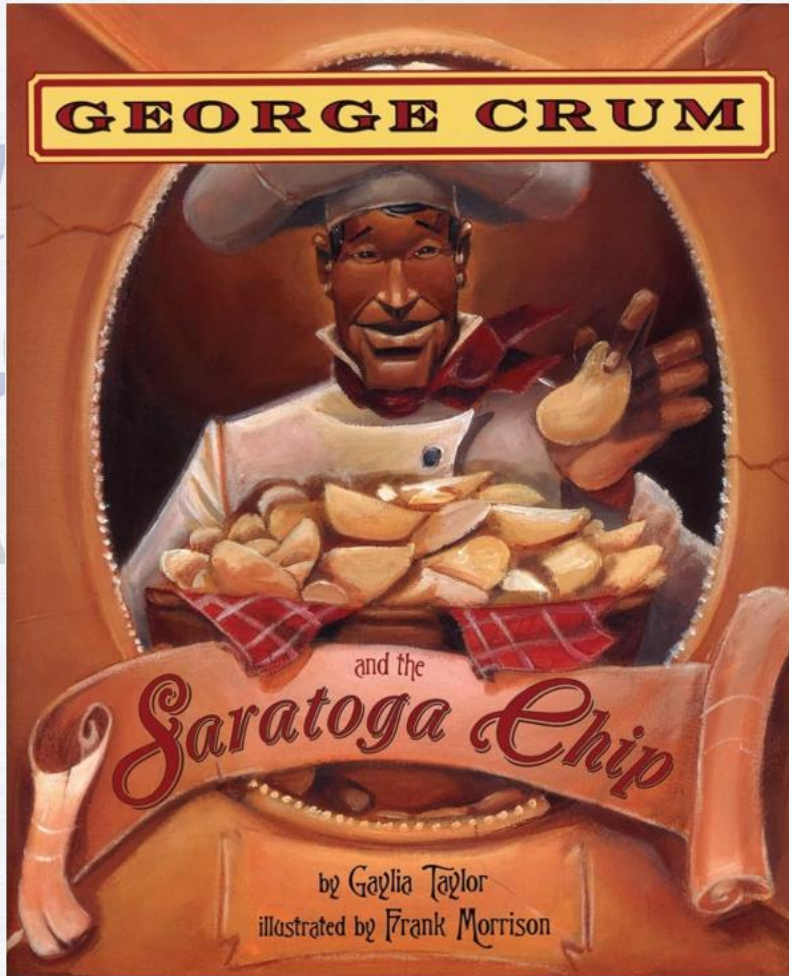
IRISH MEMORIES of the GREAT HUNGER



Edited by Mary E. Lyons



GEORGE CRUM



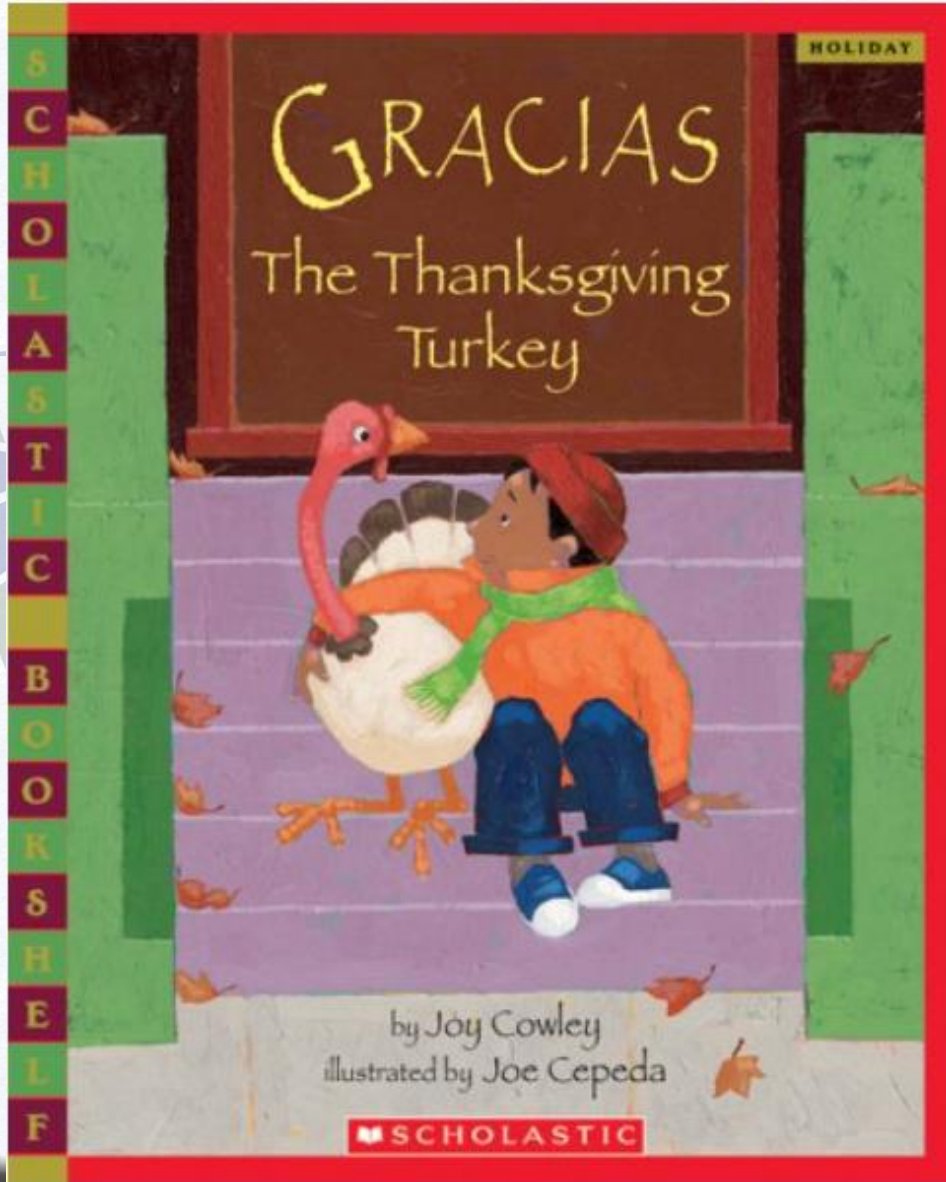
and the
Saratoga Chip

by Gaylia Taylor
illustrated by Frank Morrison



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Christmas Trees



Across the country, over 300,000 acres are dedicated to growing a traditional holiday sight, the Christmas tree. In 2012, over 17 million trees were harvested for display in homes and public areas. Illinois alone accounted for about 66,000 of these trees from over 250 different tree farms.

Today, 98% of Christmas trees are grown on farms and can take up to 15 years to grow at least 6 feet tall. They can be recycled to provide benefits to the environment. For each tree harvested, Christmas tree farmers plant one to three more seeds. On average, trees are harvested at about seven years old.



The National Christmas Tree Association established the first Christmas Spirit Foundation in 2005. The goal of the Christmas Spirit Foundation is to spread the spirit and joy of Christmas throughout the year. The foundation created the Trees for Troops program to give free Christmas Trees to our military all over the world.



Christmas trees include different species of firs, spruces, and pines. These trees are often referred to as evergreens because they stay green year round. These trees are grown and harvested in 45 different states.

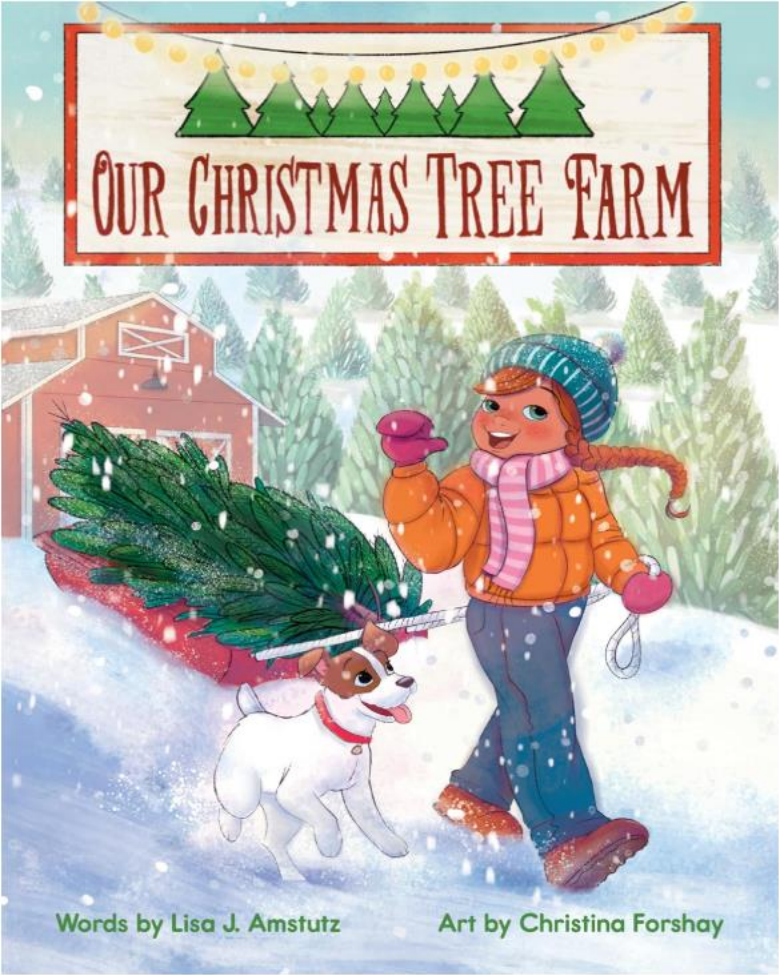
Cook County, Illinois uses old Christmas trees to rebuild housing structures for wildlife that have been destroyed through urban development.



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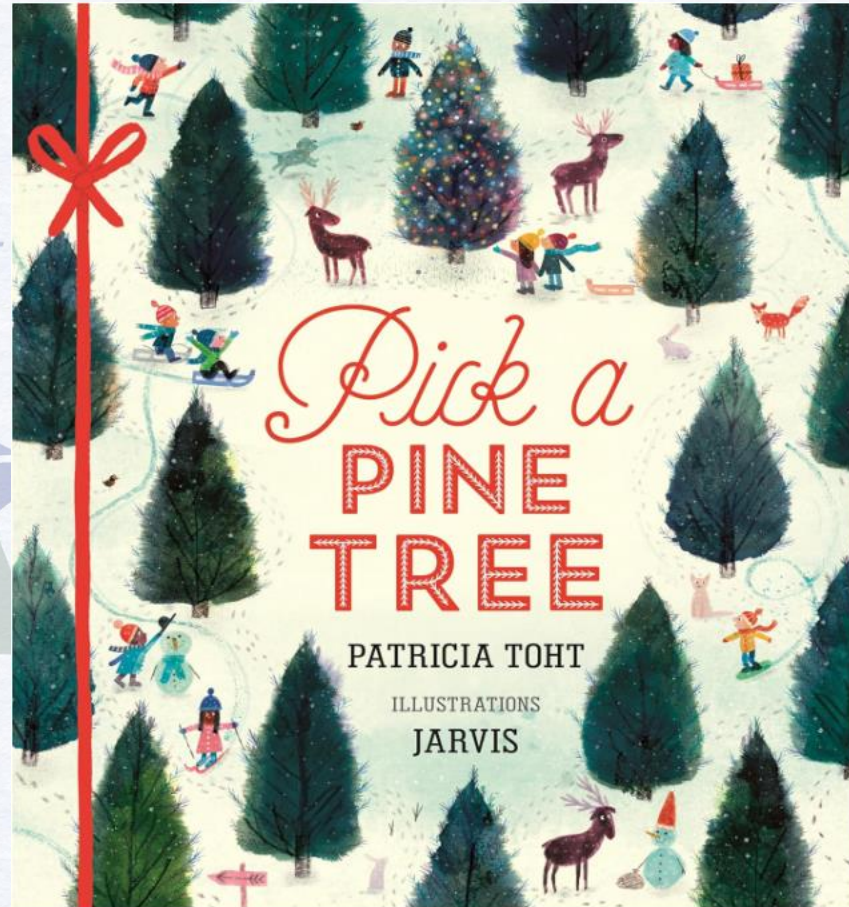


All



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83% artificial,

The top three places people bought their real trees last year were Christmas tree farms (33%), seasonal Christmas tree lots (23%), and Big Box stores (14%)



Christmas Day in the Morning



BY PEARL S. BUCK
ILLUSTRATED BY MARK BUEHNER

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Facts for
**LITTLE
READERS**

Dairy

- Cows are female cattle.
- Cows eat grass, hay, and grain.
- Dairy cows make milk.



- Cows are milked 2 to 3 times every day.
- One cow makes 8 to 10 gallons of milk in one day.
- We get yogurt, cheese, and ice cream from milk.





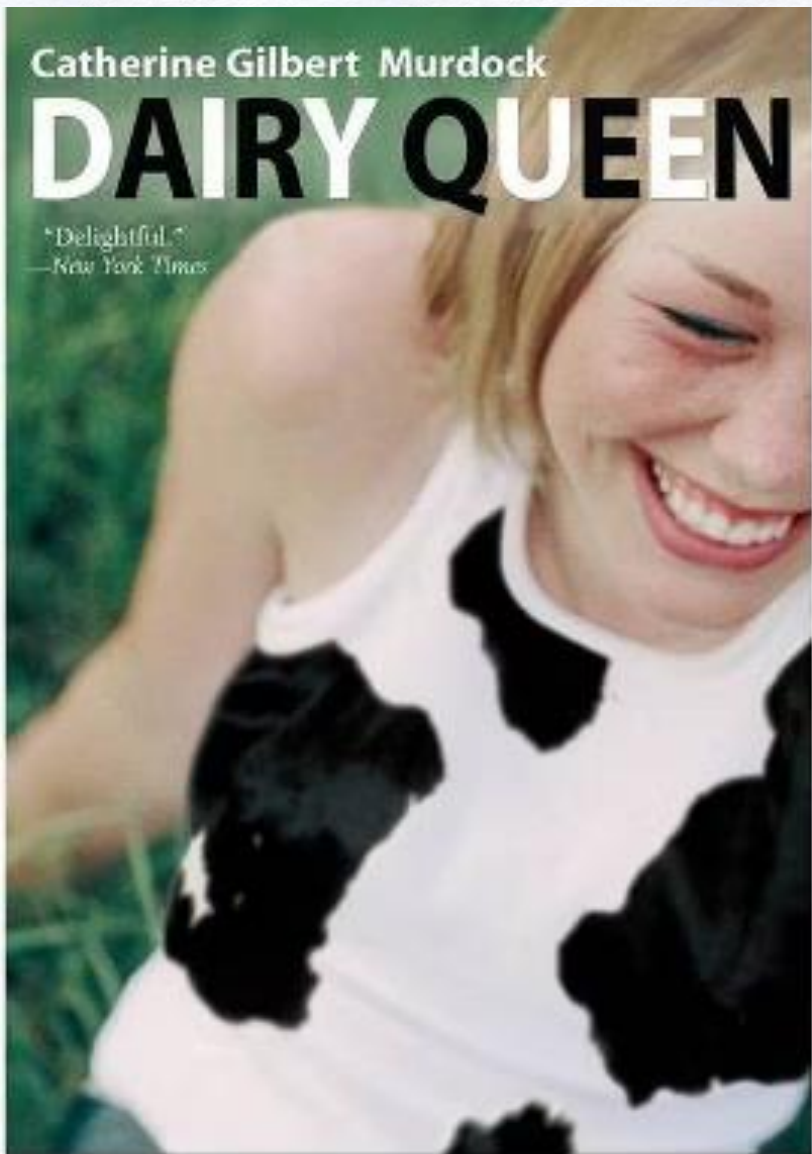
National Milk Day is celebrated annually in the United States on **January 11th**. It commemorates the date in 1878 when sterilized glass bottles were first used to deliver milk to homes in the U.S.



Catherine Gilbert Murdock

DAIRY QUEEN

"Delightful."
—New York Times



BOOK ONE OF THE BEST-SELLING DAIRY QUEEN TRILOGY

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ILLINOIS HISTORY



25,000-13,000 BCE
Wisconsin Glacier Period

800 CE-500 CE
Mississippian Indians build Cahokia Mounds.

1673
Marquette and Joliet explore the Mississippi River.

1703
French establish permanent settlement at Cahokia.

1787
Illinois becomes a part of the Northwest Territory.

BCE CE 1600s 1700s

1800
Illinois becomes a part of the Indiana Territory.

1803
Fort Dearborn established on the Chicago River.

1809
Illinois Territory formed.

1818
On December 3, 1818 Illinois becomes the 21st state.

1831
Cyrus McCormick invents reaper.

1837
John Deere invents self-scouring plow.

1839
Springfield becomes third State Capital of Illinois.

1862
Illinois son President Abraham Lincoln signs into law the Department of Agriculture Act, the Homestead Act, the Pacific Railway Act and the Moral Act.

1865
Chicago Union Stockyards opens.

1874
Joseph Glidden develops and patents barbed wire.

1800s

1907
Elgin Butter debuts as a parchment wrapped ¼ pound stick.

1922
A. E. Staley opens first commercial soybean processing plant in Decatur.

1940
Sherb Noble opens first Dairy Queen in Joliet.

1941
Dr. Andrew Moyer begins researching increased yield of penicillin in Peoria.

1973
Environmental Protection Agency begins to phase out leaded gasoline, makes way for corn-based ethanol production.

1985
First Farm Aid Concert held at University of Illinois.

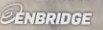
1990
Soybean oil-based crayons first appear on the market.

1993
Worst flooding in state's history in western and southern Illinois cause \$1.5 billion in crop and property damage.

2006
Walmart begins packaging produce in corn-based plastic.

2017
Illinois leads nation in production of soybeans.

This resource supported by:



1900s 2000s
Learn more about agriculture and Illinois history at: www.agintheclassroom.org, www.il.statehistory.org



ILLINOIS AGRICULTURE



WHAT IS ILLINOIS AGRICULTURE?

Agriculture is defined as the cultivation of soil, production of crops, and raising of livestock for food, fiber, and fuel products. Every state and every country is involved in agriculture, and every person in the world depends on agriculture for survival! Due to our central location in the country and our rich, fertile soil, Illinois is a leading producer of agricultural products for the country and world. The agriculture industry in Illinois is a primary contributor to our state's economy, contributing \$51.1 billion in value-added. Seventy-six percent of Illinois land is farmland, and of those acres, 89% are used for cropland to grow valuable crops like corn and soybeans. Across Illinois you will find an estimated total of 72,600 farms, of which 96% are family-owned and operated. In addition to corn and soybeans, Illinois is also a top producer of hogs for pork products, cattle and calves for beef products, and is even the top-producing state of two unique specialty crops: Pumpkins and Horseradish! Because of the broad scope of agriculture in Illinois, we are also home to the headquarters of many top agricultural corporations such as John Deere (Moline, IL) and Caterpillar (Peoria, IL). Agriculture brings with it rich family traditions and history, and Illinois farmers are proud to carry out the legacy of a state with deep roots in this great industry.

ILLINOIS' RANK IN THE UNITED STATES



VOCABULARY

AGRICULTURE: The cultivation of soil, production of crops, and raising of livestock for food, fiber, and fuel products

AGRITOURISM: Any agriculturally based operation or activity that brings visitors to a farm or ranch

AGRONOMY: The science of soil management and crop production

BIOFUEL: Any fuel that is produced from recently living biomass, as opposed to fuels produced by slow geological processes such as fossil fuels.

BY-PRODUCT: A secondary product, unintended but inevitably produced in doing or producing something else

COMMODITY: A raw material or primary agricultural product that can be bought and sold, such as corn or pork

EROSION: The process by which soil is moved from one location to another by wind or water

LEGUME: A family of plants with the ability to fix nitrogen in the soil, thus reducing the amount of nitrogen fertilizer needed for a crop

LOAM: Rich soil consisting of approximately 25 percent clay, 50 percent silt and less than 50 percent sand; considered ideal soil for gardening and agriculture

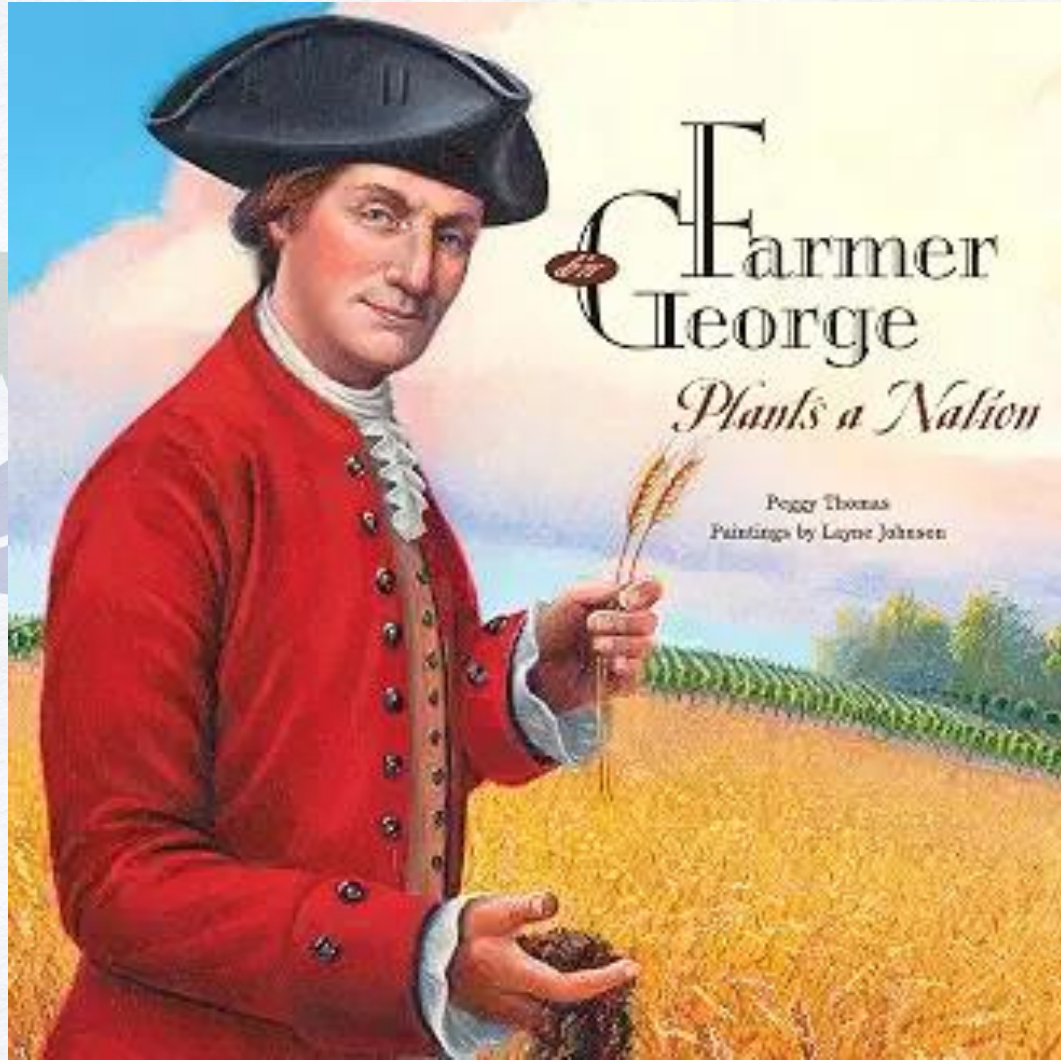
SPECIALTY CROPS: Agricultural products grown on a smaller scale, i.e. - fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits and horticulture and nursery crops, including floriculture

TILLAGE: The act of tilling the soil. Tillage includes taming with a plow, disking, harrowing, dragging, etc. Normally tillage involves significant disturbance of the soil

ILLINOIS AGRICULTURE BY THE NUMBERS

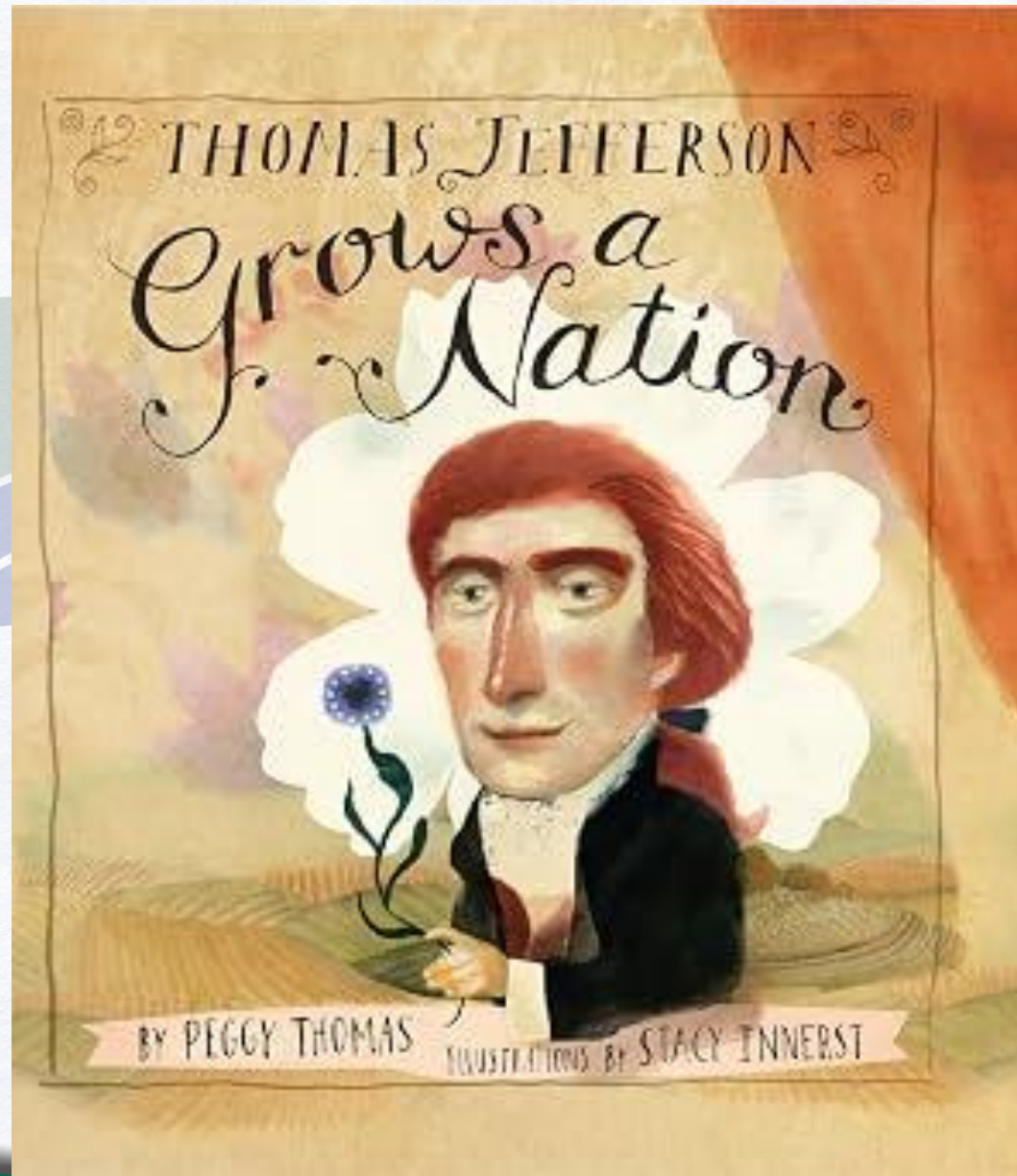
- **\$51,100,000,000** – total value of Illinois' agriculture industry
- **76%** - percent of Illinois land that is farmland
- **72,000** – number of farms in Illinois
- **96%** - percent of Illinois farms that are family-owned
- **57** – average age of a farmer in Illinois





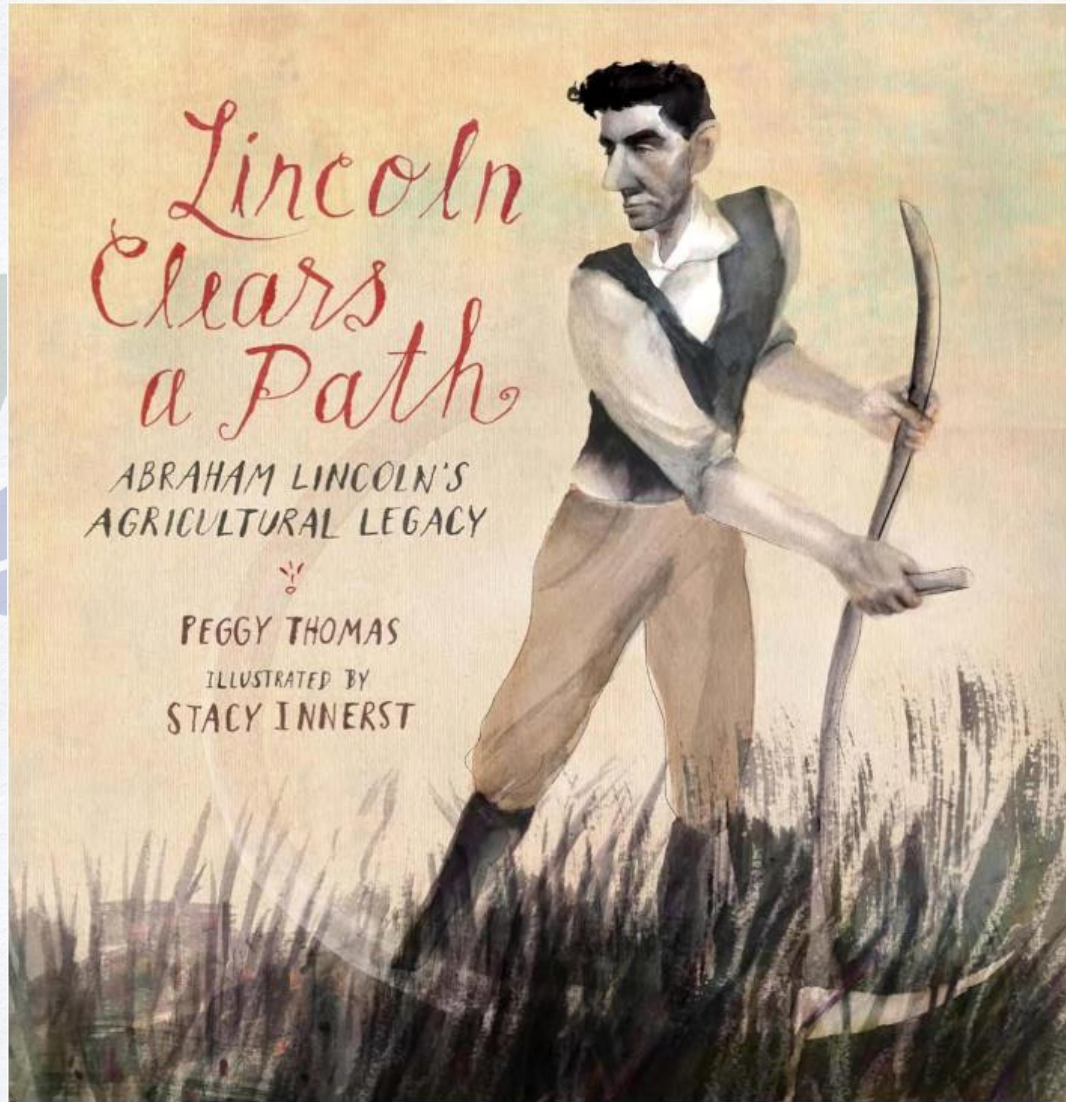
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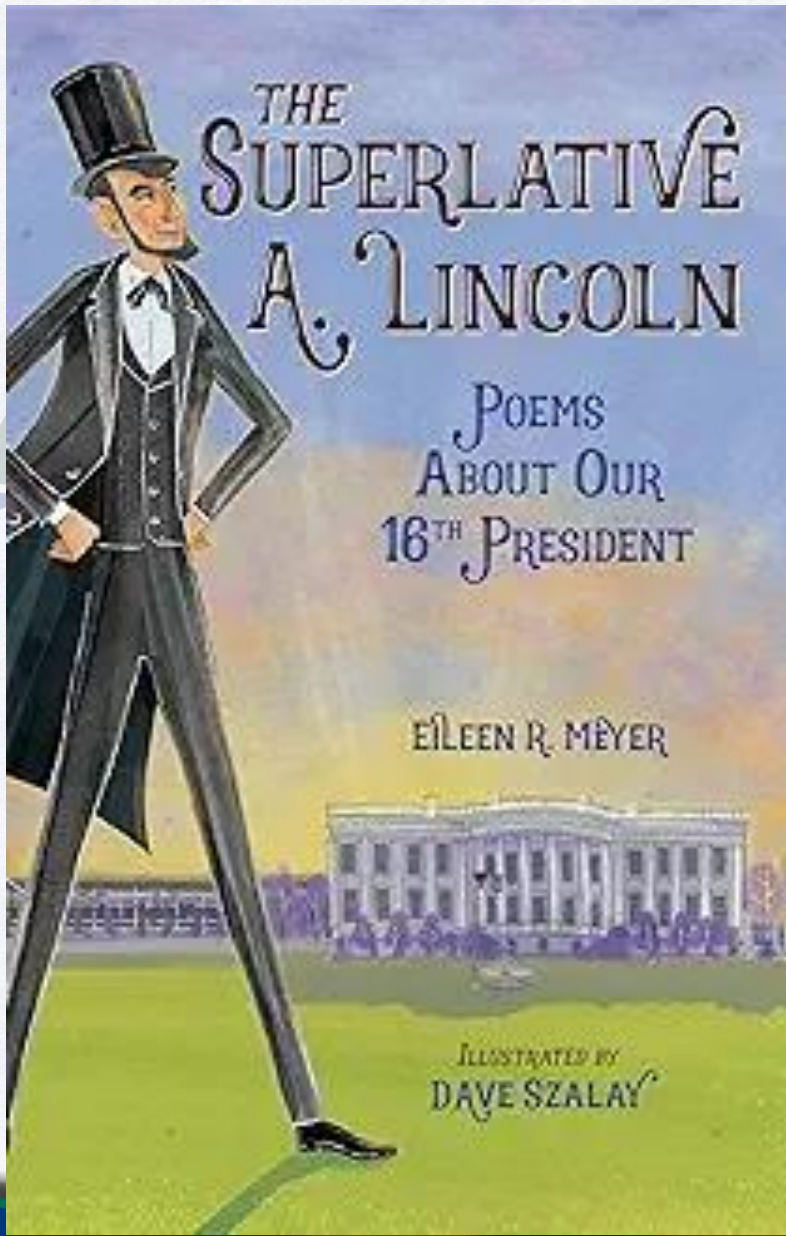


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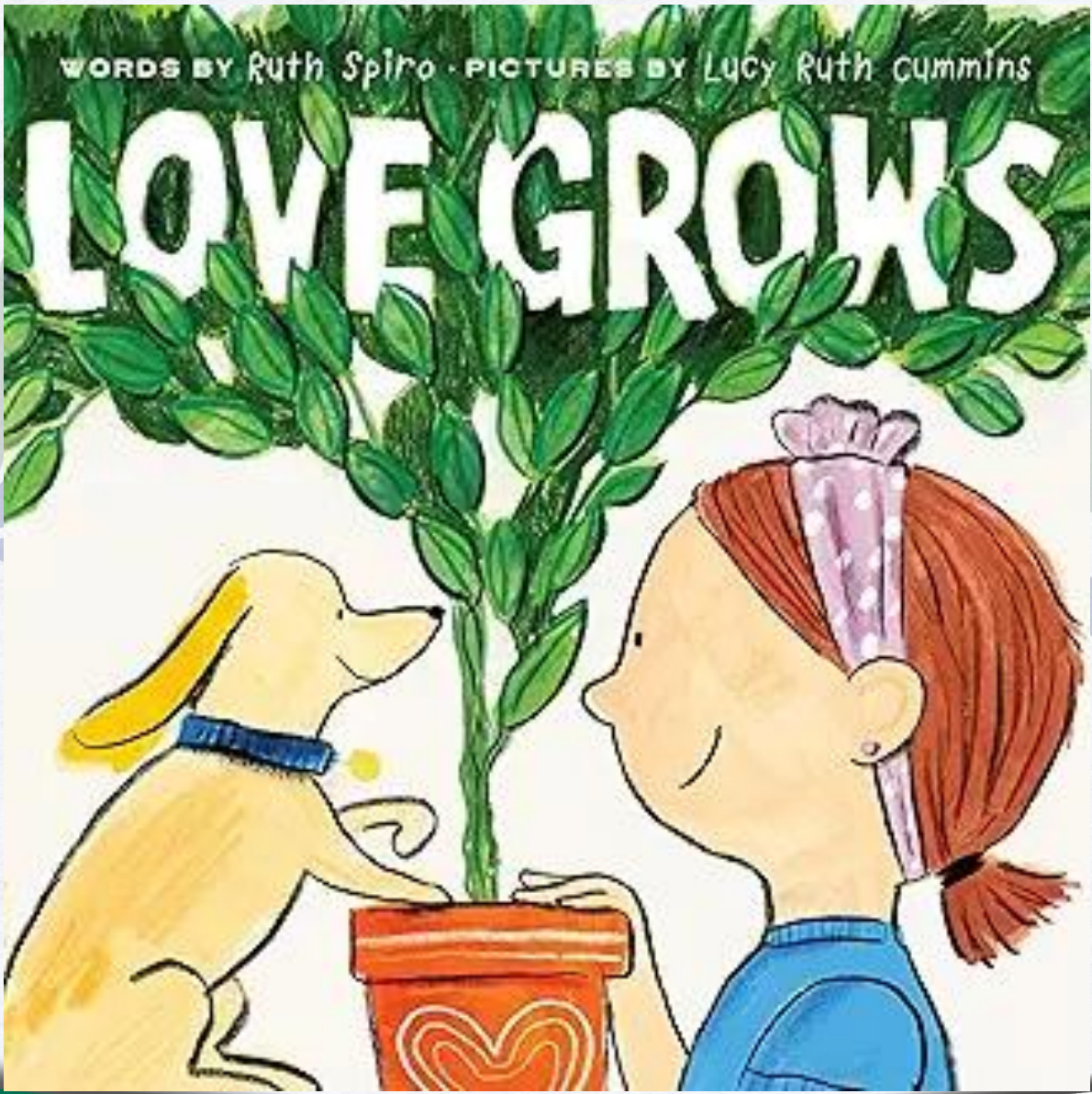


Illustration



Picture roomSM





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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 AND THE GREATLANDS
 DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

STATE PIE
 PUMPKIN PIE

STATE FRUIT
 GOLDRUSH APPLE

STATE SOIL
 DRUMMER SILTY CLAY LOAM

STATE BEAN
 SOYBEAN

STATE SNACK FOOD
 POPCORN

STATE FLOWER
 VIOLET
(Viola sp.)

STATE GRAIN
 CORN

STATE VEGETABLE
 SWEET CORN

STATE WILDFLOWER
 MILKWEED
(Asclepias spp.)

THE ILLINOIS STATE MOTTO
 STATE SOVEREIGNTY, NATIONAL UNION

ILLINOIS
 ILLINOIS IS KNOWN AS THE PRAIRIE STATE.

SCAN TO LEARN MORE

Printed by Authority of the State of Illinois
 (2017-2018) 4-214 - 1/18



EXPLORE ILLINOIS WITH ROADS, RIVERS & RAILS



In 1925 the U.S. Congress established a plan for a national highway system. One of those highways was to connect Chicago with Los Angeles. This new highway system connected cities and rural communities using existing roadways instead of forging new roads. Route 66 was officially recognized on November 11, 1926 with road signs stretching through Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona before eventually arriving in Santa Clara, California at the Pacific Ocean. The road was a primary route for western migration during the Great Depression and found favor in popular culture through books and movies. In 1985 the route was officially disbanded as it was replaced by the Interstate Highway system. Over 300 miles of Route 66 cut from Chicago to St. Louis through Illinois.

Visit www.aginthe classroom.org/RRRites for more sites near you.

#1 START OF ROUTE 66
122 S. MICHIGAN AVE. | CHICAGO, IL 60627
The official Route 66 starting point is located at 122 S. Michigan Ave. near the intersection of S. Michigan Ave. and E. Adams St. just across from the Art Institute of Chicago. The 2.4-mile adventure begins here.

#2 HISTORIC ROAD SAFETY MARKER
NORTH MAIN STREET AND JEFFERSON STREET | BLOOMINGTON, IL 61701
Access to roads and improvements in automobile technology led to increased automobile accidents. The number of accidents was so high that in 1926, the Illinois State Police Officer Chester Myers was a reporter for the most deadly accident in a year along Route 66. Other unique locations near this historic marker include the McLean County Museum with a unique collection of Route 66 memorabilia, and the original Stein and Beck's opened in Normal in 1916 along Route 66.

#3 COZY DOG RESTAURANT
ORIGINAL CORN DOG RESTAURANT | 2795 S 6TH ST | SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703
Starting in 1914 at a small Springfield restaurant, the next year that year in the Illinois State Fair, the original corn dog was the first hot food to be sold. Combining cornmeal, hot sauce and a hot dog that French fry in hot oil, the Corn Dog served today has its humble beginning. You can visit the restaurant, where the recipe is mainly unchanged and also check out unique Route 66 memorabilia.

#4 GIANT CATSUP BOTTLE
805 S. HICKORY AVE. | COLLINGSVILLE, IL 62434
The World's Largest Catsup Bottle stands just off of Route 66 south of downtown Collinsville, Illinois. The bottle, 195' tall, was built in 1974 by the W.E. Caldwell Company for the U.S. Suggon-Catsup bottling plant. Bottles of Brunswick original catsup & ketchup catsup. If the water level held catsup, it would hold 440,000 bottles!

#5 HIGHEST POINT IN ILLINOIS
CHARLES MOUND | PARK OF CHARLES MOUND RD | SCALES MOUND, IL 61775
The highest point in Illinois is located on the Charles Mound in Scales Mound. While not an official state park, the Charles Mound is a natural landmark. The mound is a remnant of a prehistoric sand dune that once covered the area. The mound is 125 feet high and is the 45th highest elevation in the nation.

#6 JOHN DEERE PAVILION
1400 WEST DR. | Moline, IL 61704
In 1837, John Deere invented the first commercially successful, self-cleaning steel plow that could turn over heavy, sticky prairie soil. Originally invented in Grand Detour, Deere moved his business to Moline in 1848. By 1852, Deere was producing over 1,000 plows a year. Located in Moline on the Mississippi River, the John Deere Pavilion showcases all things John Deere. History, innovations and applications to homesteaders and farmers across Illinois, the United States and around the world are featured in this gallery museum and light/digital center. The original John Deere Historic Site is located in Grand Detour about 75 miles northeast of Moline.

#7 USDA LAB
815 S. UNIVERSITY STREET | PEORIA, IL 61604
Located just off the Illinois River on 1/2 the USDA National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research researched new methods and food uses for agricultural commodities, developed new technology to improve environmental quality and provides technical support to federal regulatory and state agencies. Originally established in 1936, the facility was the home to the industrial production techniques of Penicillin as led by Andrew Meyer in 1942. This facility was also instrumental in the development of soybeans taking this from a small foreign crop to the second largest and most valuable new crop in the U.S.

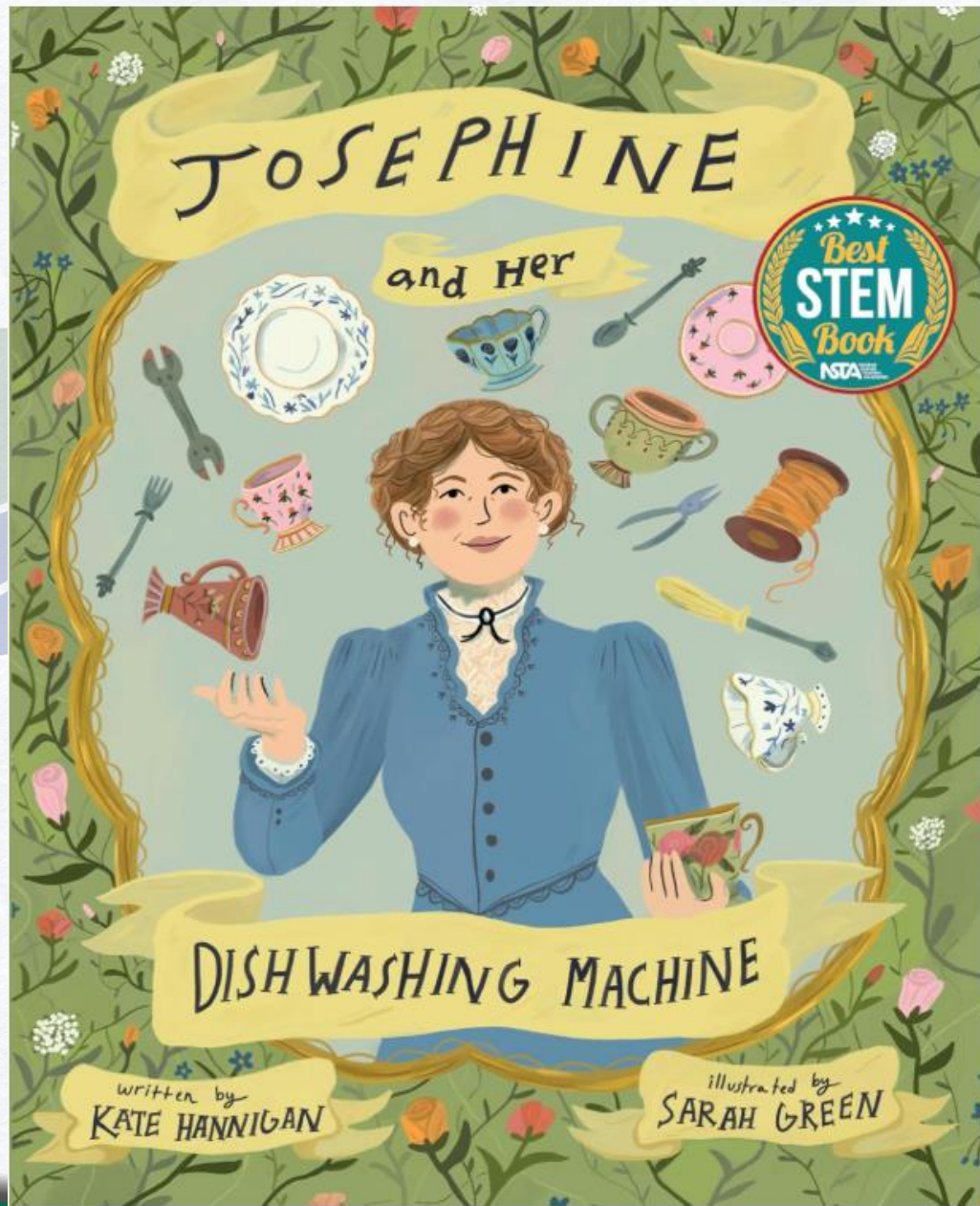
#8 MORROW PLOTS
102 S. LABORERS | URBANA, IL 61801
Located off of 74, 75, and 87 on the campus of the University of Illinois. The Morrow Plots were established on the West of campus in 1887 as experimental agricultural fields. They are the oldest experimental fields in the nation and the second oldest in the world. Today, there are three fields in these locations near the center of the campus, and one has been planted annually since 1874.

#9 WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN STATUE
NORTH BROADWAY | SALEM, IL 62458
Located off of 57 and US 50 in Salem, a statue of William Jennings Bryan can be found in Bryan Park just east of Broadway near downtown. Bryan, a native of Salem, was a newspaper editor, lawyer and was the first candidate for President, who served as U.S. Secretary of State from 1913-1915. The statue in Bryan Park, near his birthplace, was sculpted by Guston Berglund, the sculptor who created the faces on Mount Rushmore. Salem was also the home to the Cravath's Cafe, home of beer, for a Fine Good Dressing, that was added to Krieh in 1931 and was renamed Intracafe Whyp.

#10 POPEYE STATUE
101 N. PULASKI ROAD | CHESAPE, IL 62624
Located on the Mississippi River, Chester is the county seat of Randolph County south of St. Louis. Chester is also the home of Popeye the Sailor Man created by Elsie Crider Sager, Chester native. In 1924, a statue of Popeye was unveiled and in 1979, the original statue to be, and now 18 other Popeye-themed statues are scattered throughout the city.

#11 RIVER TO RIVER TRAIL
MAIN STREET | ELIZABETHTOWN, IL 62931
Connecting the Ohio River and the Mississippi River is the River to River Trail. Starting in Elizabethtown, on the Ohio River and heading west to Grand Tower, on the Mississippi, this trail covers 155 miles through the Shawnee National Forest in Southern Illinois. The trail is perfect for backpacking, hiking, camping and enjoying beautiful scenery and native wildlife.





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THE CONSTRUCTION OF HOOVER DAM
AND THE VANISHING COLORADO RIVER

THE WILD RIVER AND THE GREAT DAM

SIMON
BOUGHTON



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NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHORS
NEAL SHUSTERMAN
JARROD SHUSTERMAN



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BASKETBALL & AGRICULTURE

Maple Tree
Courts are made of maple due to the wood's high shock resistance.



Chewing Gum
Gum comes from the tropical gum tree with sugar and corn syrup added as sweeteners.



Team Gear
Supporting your favorite team means t-shirts and sweatshirts. These are often made from cotton.



Basket of Peaches
The original baskets for basketball were suspended peach baskets. Calhoun County is famous for IL peaches.



Soda
Many of your favorite drinks are sweetened with corn syrup.



Peanuts and Popcorn
These are grown by farmers. Popcorn is the IL State Snack and is typically popped in soybean oil.



Beef
Leather from a cowhide is used to provide a soft, comfortable, and durable ball. Leather balls help with better control on fast breaks and dunks.



Tickets, Programs, and Schedules
These are printed on paper from trees and use soy ink from soybeans.



Tape and Bandages
Corn dextrin and cattle gelatins are used as adhesives and binding agents in tape and bandages.



Shoes
Most basketball shoes are made of leather from beef cattle and some now have plastic made from corn and soybeans instead of oil-based plastic.

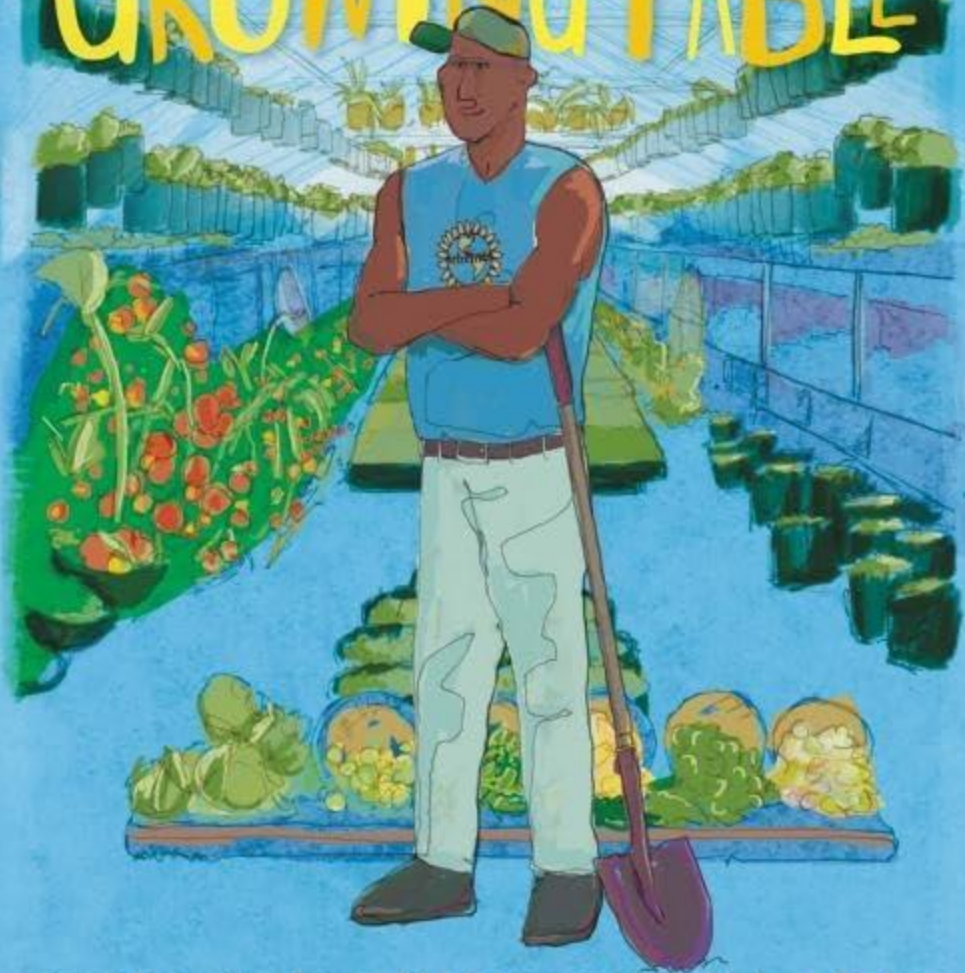


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Farmer Will Allen *and the*
GROWING TABLE



WRITTEN BY Jacqueline Briggs Martin ILLUSTRATED BY Eric Shabazz Larkin
AFTERWORD BY WILL ALLEN



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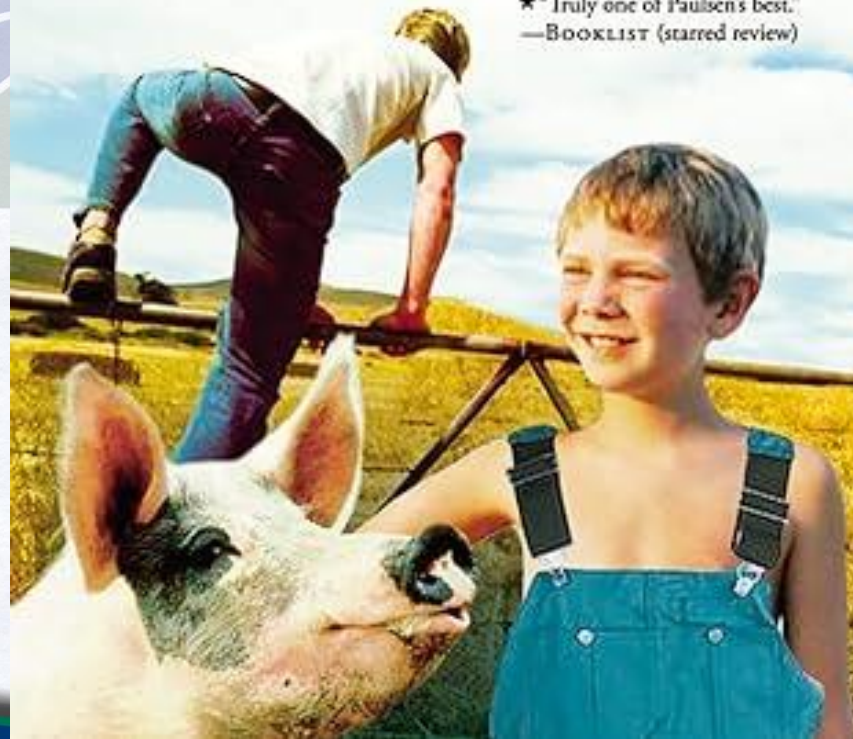


GARY PAULSEN

Newbery Honor-winning author of HATCHET

Harris and Me

★ "Truly one of Paulsen's best."
—BOOKLIST (starred review)



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THE ARTS & AGRICULTURE

Soybean oil is a major component in oil-based paints and corn can be used in solvents used in paints. Additionally, many plants are used for pigments and dyes and coloring.

CONCESSIONS

Popcorn, the IL State Snack, is grown on farms and typically popped in soybean oil. You'll also find corn in many snacks and soft drinks.

PAINT BRUSHES

Animal bristles (specifically pork, goat and cattle) are used in paintbrushes. Many paint brushes use wooden handles made from trees.

MAKEUP

Theater makeup typically contains cornstarch, used for oil absorption; lanolin, from sheep's wool, for moisturizing; and beeswax for helping makeup stick through heavy stage lighting.

COSTUMES

Cotton, burlap (typically made from the jute plant) and leather (animal hides) are used in most costumes.

CLARINETS & OBOES

Clarinets and oboes are made from the wood of the Grenadilla tree grown in eastern Africa. Beginner bassoons are generally made from the wood of the maple tree.

SHEET MUSIC AND SCRIPTS

Sheet music and scripts on paper are made from the wood of pine, spruce and birch trees and printed with soy ink from soybeans.

MUSIC REEDS

Most high-quality music reeds for woodwind instruments come from cane primarily grown in France, Spain and Argentina.

STAGE FLOORS

Most theater stage floors are made of softwood pine or fir, tempered with hardwood for durability, non-reflectiveness and ability to have sets screwed into the surface.

THIS RESOURCE MADE POSSIBLE BY A GENEROUS GRANT FROM



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CARMEN OLIVER

LUISA URIBE

BUILDING AN ORCHESTRA OF HOPE



HOW FAVIO CHAVEZ TAUGHT CHILDREN
TO MAKE MUSIC FROM TRASH

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"Essentially, all life **depends**
upon the *soil*...
There can be **no life** without soil,
& **no soil without life**:
they have evolved *together*."

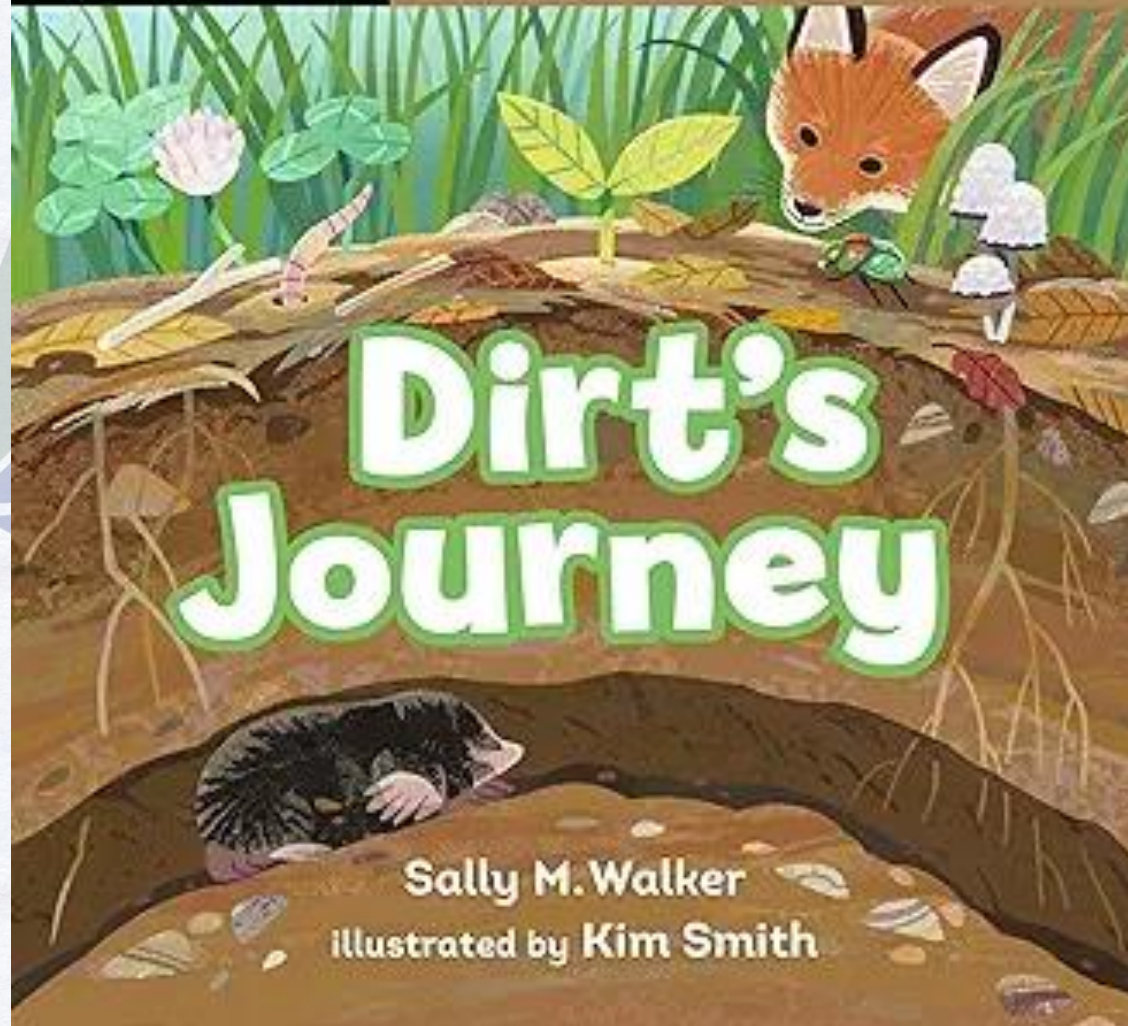
-CHARLES E. KELLOGG, 1938

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NATURE IN ACTION

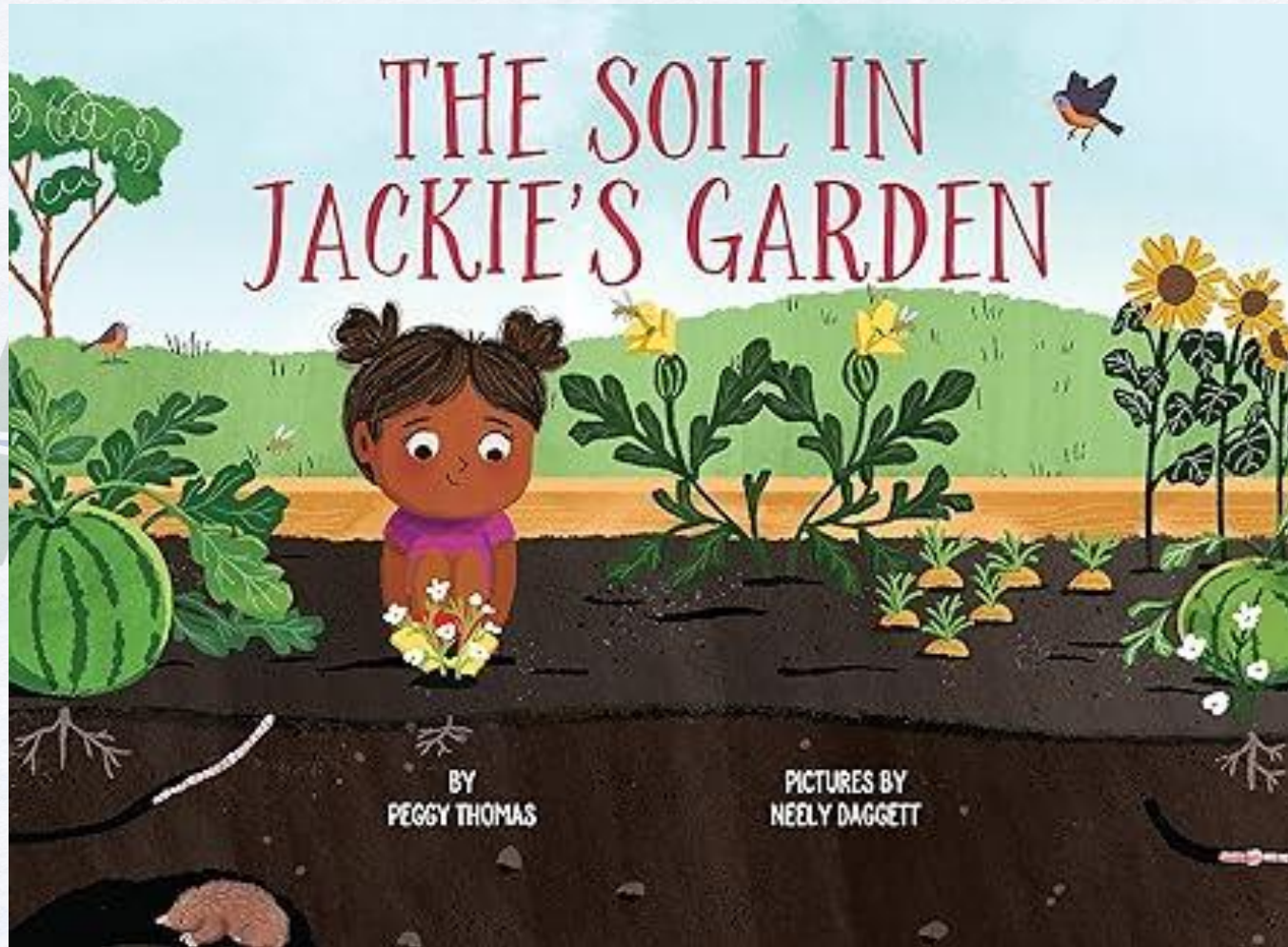


Dirt's Journey

Sally M. Walker
illustrated by Kim Smith



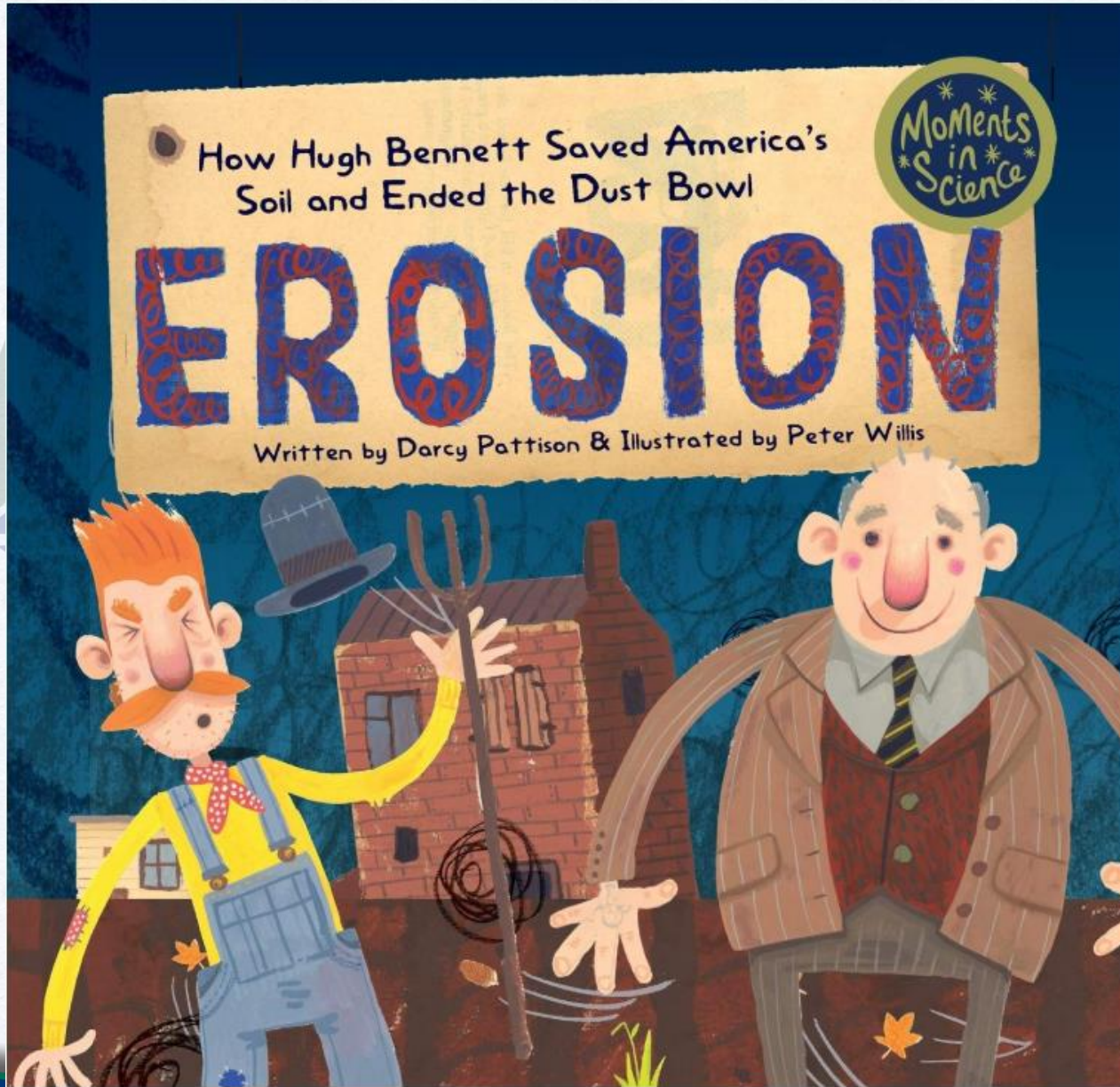
THE SOIL IN JACKIE'S GARDEN

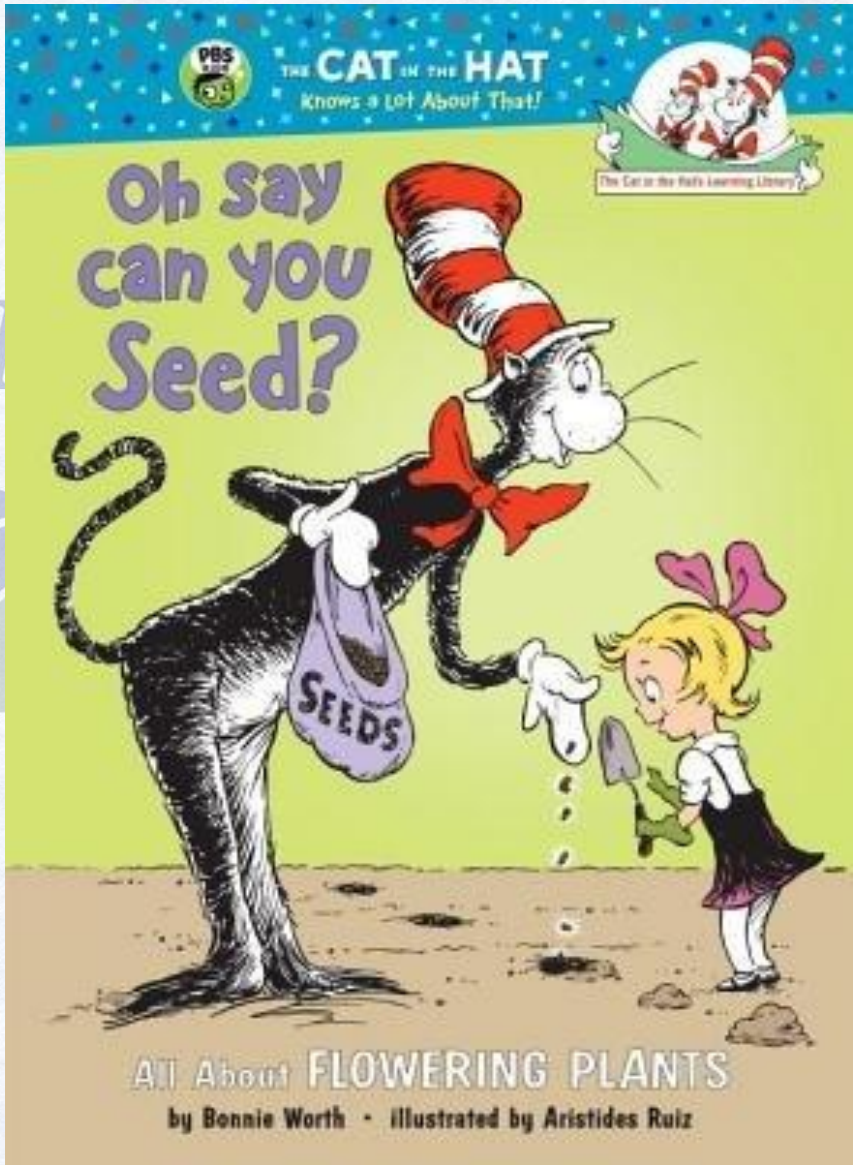


BY
PEGGY THOMAS

PICTURES BY
NEELY DAGGETT

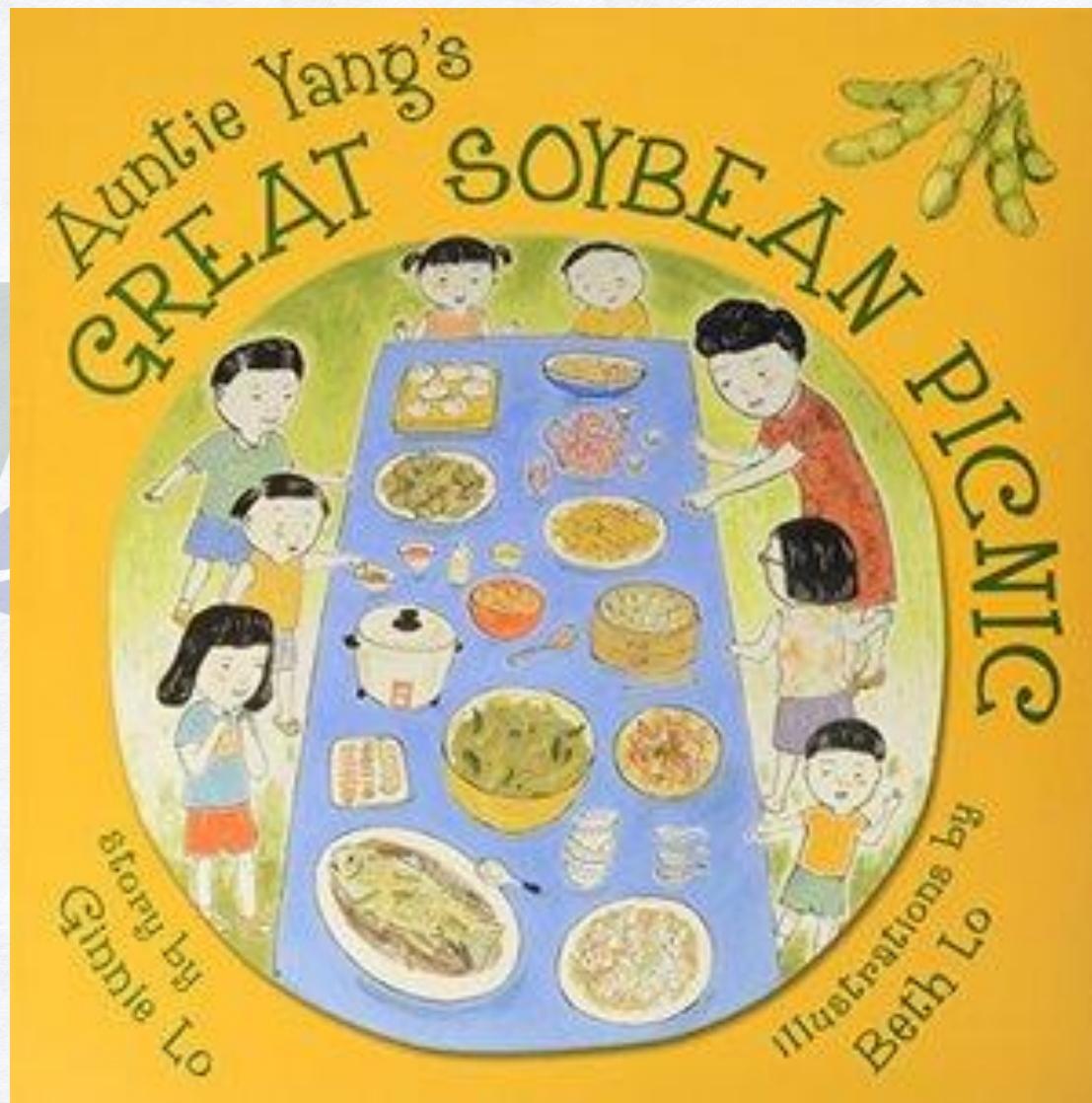






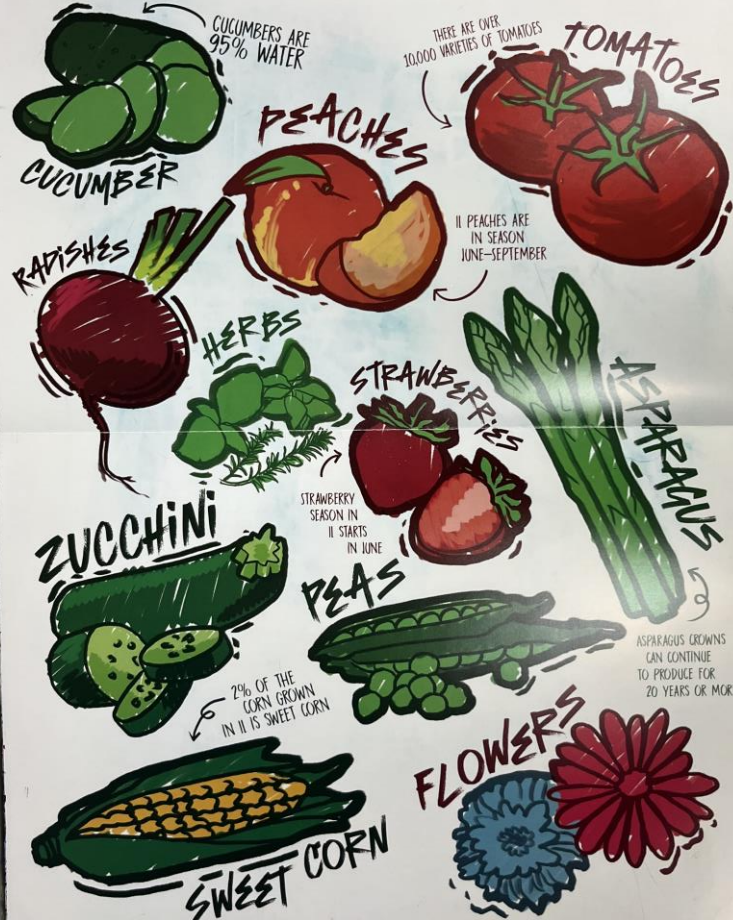
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FIND A LOCAL FARMERS MARKET NEAR YOU!



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TOMATOES OR TRIAL.

The *FRUIT* v. *VEGETABLE* Showdown

It's a
VEGETABLE!

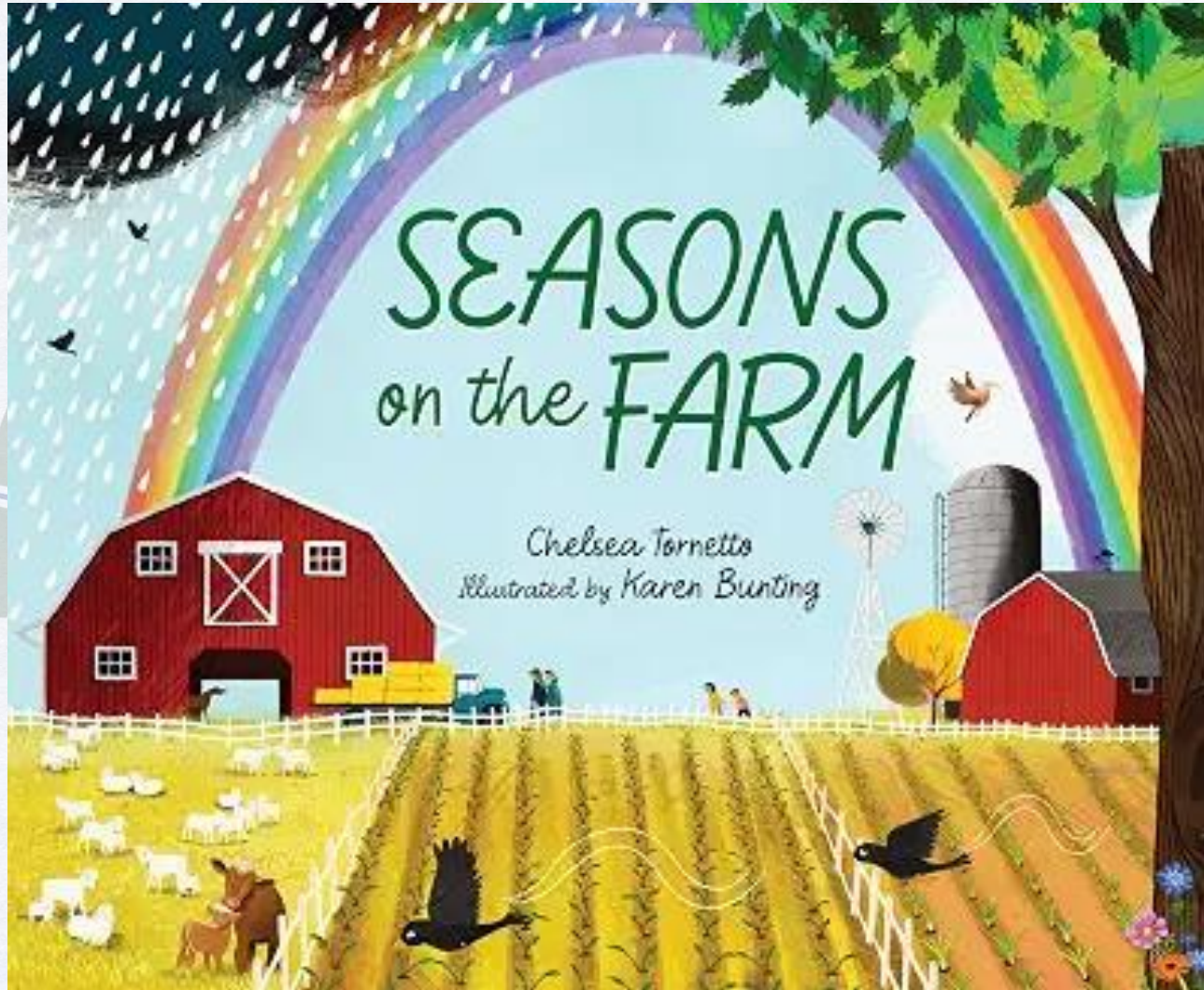
It's a
FRUIT!

LINDSAY H. METCALF Illustrated by EDWIN FOTHERINGHAM



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Baseball & AGRICULTURE

This resource supported by:



Soft Pretzels

Pretzels are made with wheat flour and vegetable oil.

Hot Dogs

That game day hot dog includes pork and beef in a wheat bun with ketchup from tomatoes and relish from cucumbers.

Soda

Many of your favorite sodas are sweetened with corn syrup.

Nachos & Cheese

Nachos are made from food grade corn flour topped with cheese made from dairy cows.

Bat

Today's official bat is a smooth round stick made of one piece of solid wood. It must be no more than 2.6 inches in diameter at its thickest part and no more than 42 inches long. The best bats are made from wood from northern ash trees.

Baseball Hat

Hats are made from cotton, which is produced mainly in the southern United States. Cotton is a natural fiber that keeps you cool.

Tickets, Programs, & Schedules

These are printed on paper from trees and possibly use soy ink made from soybeans.

Peanuts & Popcorn

Peanuts and popcorn are both grown by farmers, and your popcorn is typically popped in soybean oil!

Chewing Gum

Gum comes from the tropical gum tree with sugar and corn syrup added as sweeteners.

Baseball Glove

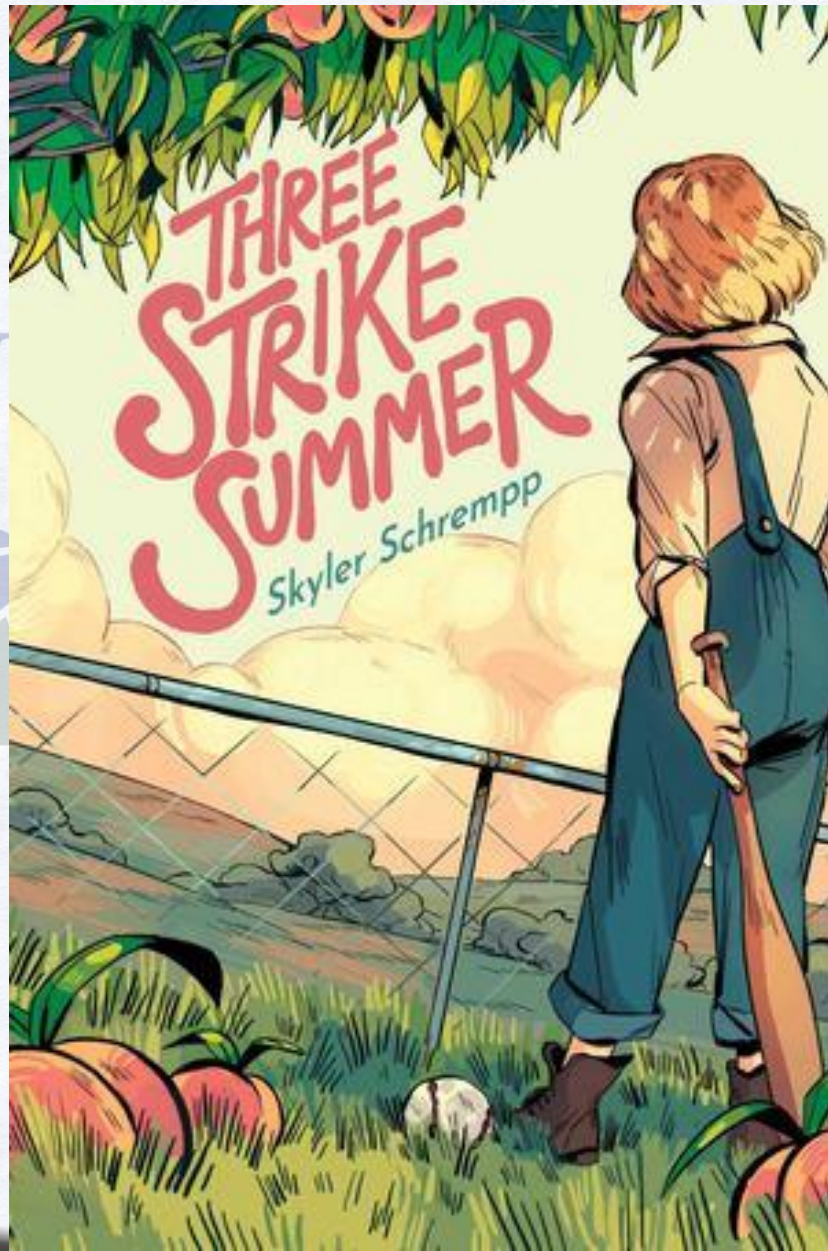
Mitts vary according to the size of the player's hand or the position played. The best mitts are made from natural materials, usually cowhide from cattle. Oil to soften a glove may come from fish or animals.

Baseball

An official baseball used in the major leagues is formed by yarn wound around a core made from cork, rubber or a similar material. Lower quality baseballs have cores made from cotton.

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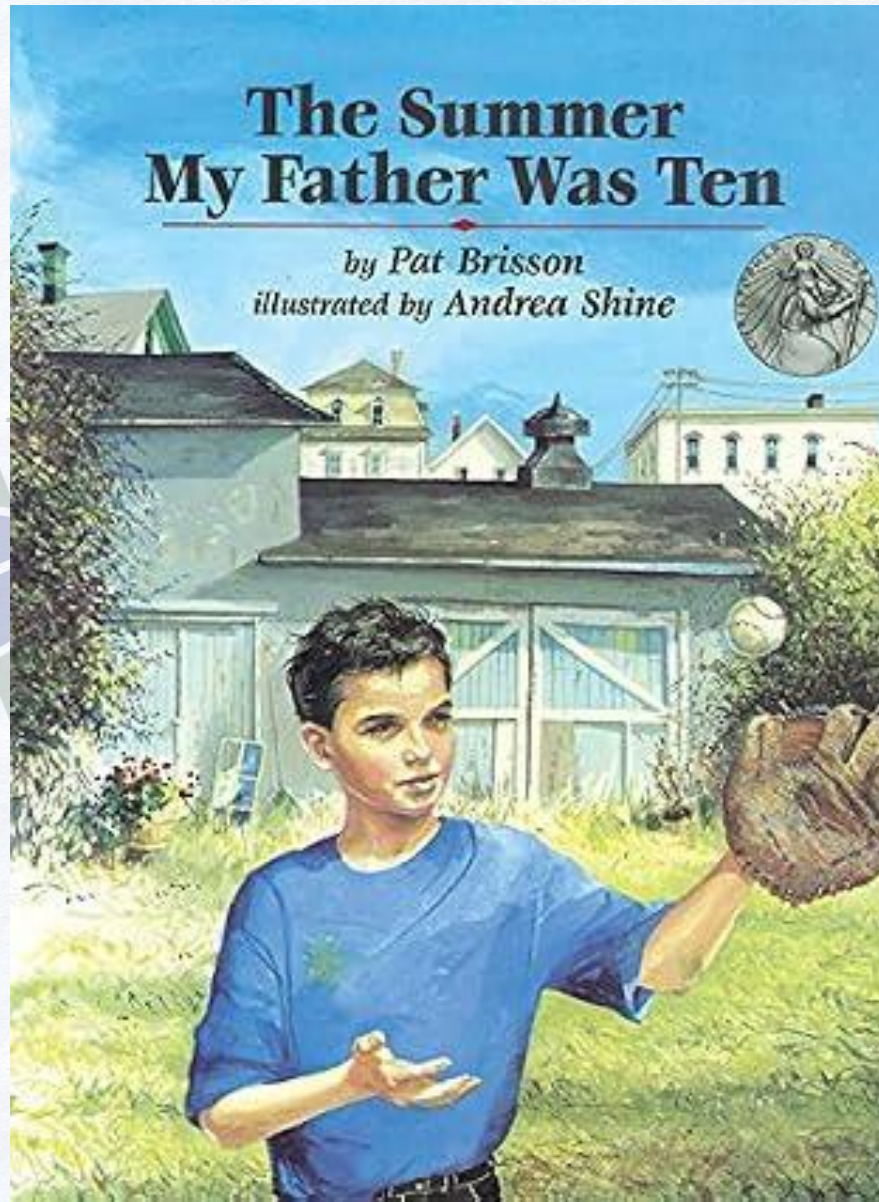
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The Summer My Father Was Ten

by Pat Brisson
illustrated by Andrea Shine



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"A blue ribbon for Sandra Neil Wallace and Little Joe!" —Newbery Medalist Jerry Spinelli

SANDRA NEIL WALLACE



illustrated by Mark Elliott



AGRICULTURE
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the
beef
princess
of
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HEART OF A SHEPHERD

"A depth and honesty seldom
seen in contemporary children's
literature. Rosanne Parry's first
novel is something to celebrate."
—The Washington Post



ROSANNE PARRY

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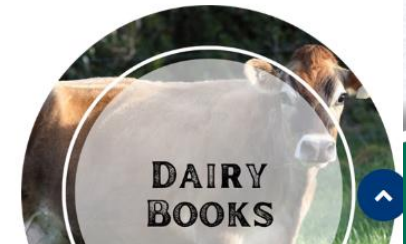
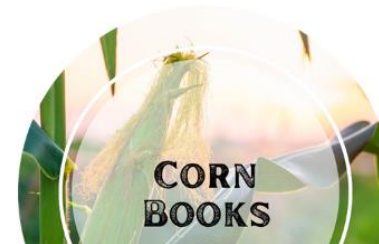
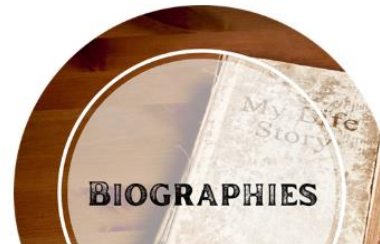


Book Recommendations

Select a topic below to view our favorite ag-accurate books within each category!

2026-2027 Book Grant Books

[Click here to view what books we have in this year's Book Grant!](#)





Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom

May 29 at 10:01 AM · 🌐

Read through Bread Lab! by Kim Binczewski and Bethany Econopouly and show kids how flour is made with this engaging look into wheat and milling.... [See more](#)



**READ AND
GROW!**

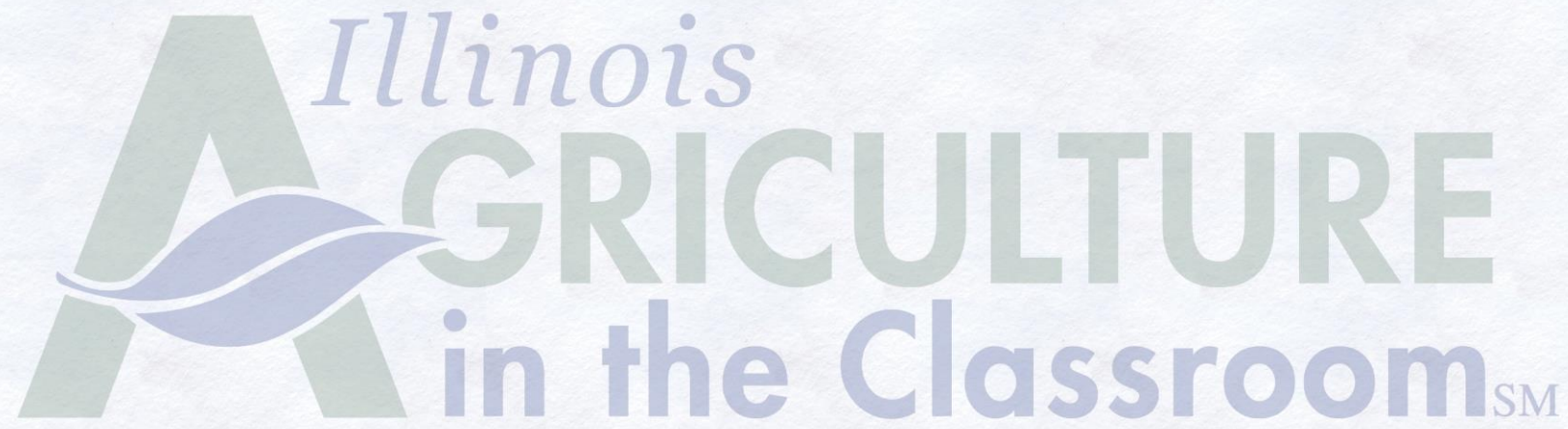
iREAD Summer 2026 Reading Companion

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Boost post

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www.agintheclassroom.org

