

Help Your Students Bloom

WITH

**Spring-Themed Lessons from
IL Ag in the Classroom**

Me



Education Specialist: Develop and implement IAITC programming and resource development efforts that assist the IAITC programs, teacher training, and in-service teacher training.

Experience and Education:

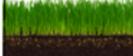
- B.S. Environmental Science and Art
- B.A. Middle Level Education
- Former Middle School Science, ELA, and SS teacher -- still certified

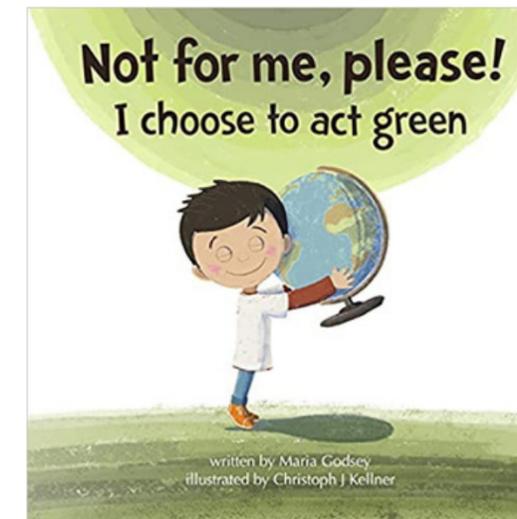
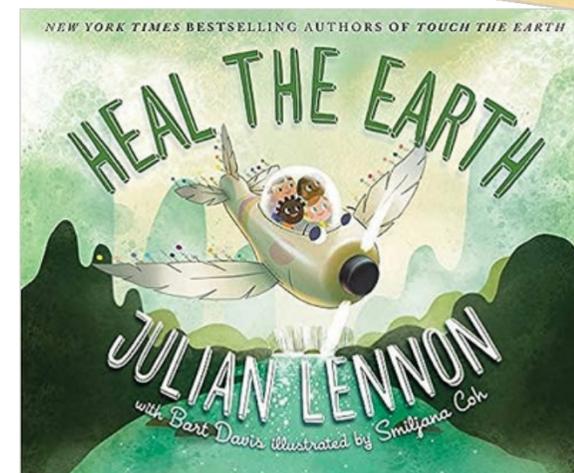
IAITC

- Create standards-based, cross-curricular lessons for K-12 teachers
- Have county-level education coordinators to come into your classrooms
- Provide teacher Summer Ag Academies throughout the state
- Provide FREE resources to IL teachers
- Promote ag-accurate literature

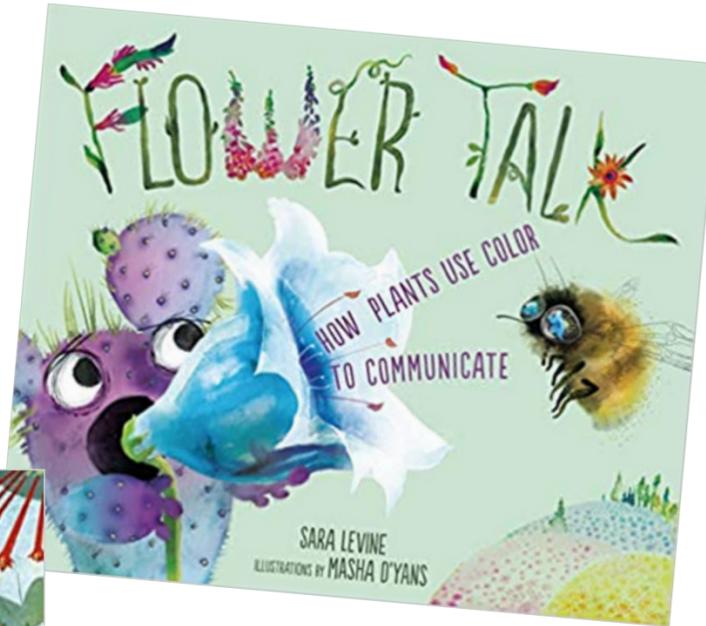
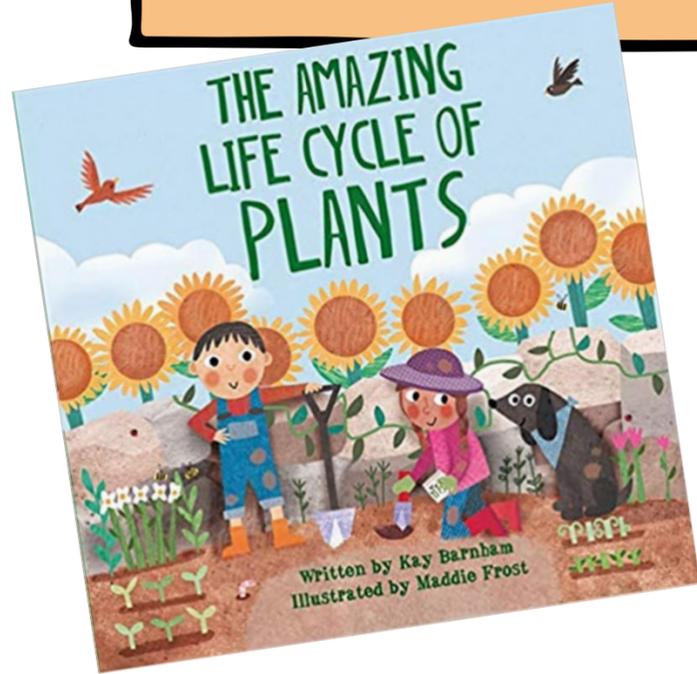
Circle of Earth Bracelet



Rock out of place 	An animal sound	Flower Blossom 	Something of your favorite color	Squirrel 
Something that snaps	Oak tree leaf 	Something bumpy	Pine cone 	Flying Bird 
Sprouting plant 	Something with patterns	FREE SPACE	Moss 	A Shadow
Insect 	Crumbled sidewalk	Maple tree leaf 	5 of the same thing in different places	Crow 
Multi-colored leaf 	Bird singing 	Something that crunches	Bird looking for worms	Green grass 



Parts of a Flower



Powder-Powered Pollination

Throw & Grow

NATIVE FLOWERS

A native plant is one that has been a part of the balance of nature for hundreds or thousands of years. Only plants found in our country before European settlement are considered to be native to the United States. The native plants of the Midwest help support a diverse group of pollinators. Illinois is a vital breeding area for the monarch butterfly and is home to hundreds of other pollinator species. Our natural world relies on pollination, but so does our agricultural industry. So much of what we eat would not be available without the help of pollinators.

You can help our diverse pollinator populations by planting native plants and flowers in your landscape that provide food and shelter throughout the year. Try to plant at least three different flowering plants for each part of the growing season. You should also aim for a variety of colors and flower shapes to attract a diversity of pollinators. This will help ensure that pollinators always have a food source in your neighborhood. There are hundreds of plants and flowers that you could plant in your landscape that can help pollinators. Here are a few easy plants to get started with.



Butterfly Weed: The butterfly weed has reddish-orange blossoms that open in early summer. Expect hummingbirds and butterflies to be drawn to this flower.



Joe Pye Weed: This is a tall woodland plant that shows off clusters of pink or purple flowers from July to September. Butterflies and bees love its nectar and birds like goldfinches and mourning doves will visit to eat the seeds.



Echinacea: These flowers include many varieties of coneflowers and rudbeckia. The blooms can range from purple to orange to pink. Flowers will continue throughout the summer. Hummingbirds and butterflies feed on this flower's nectar and goldfinches eat its seeds.



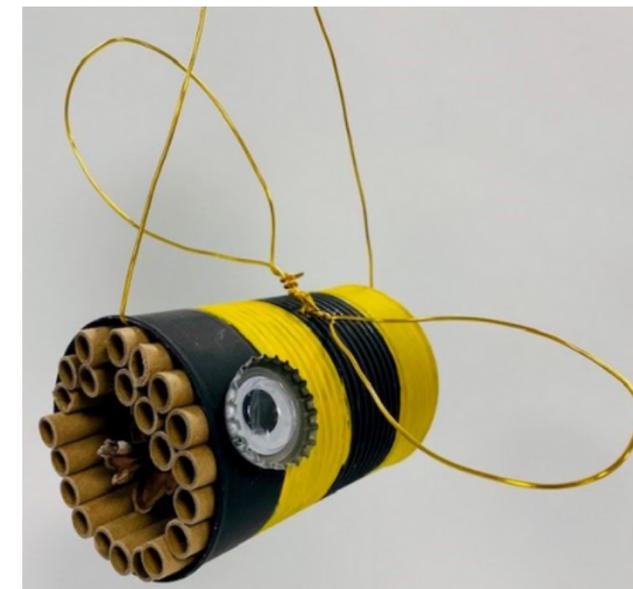
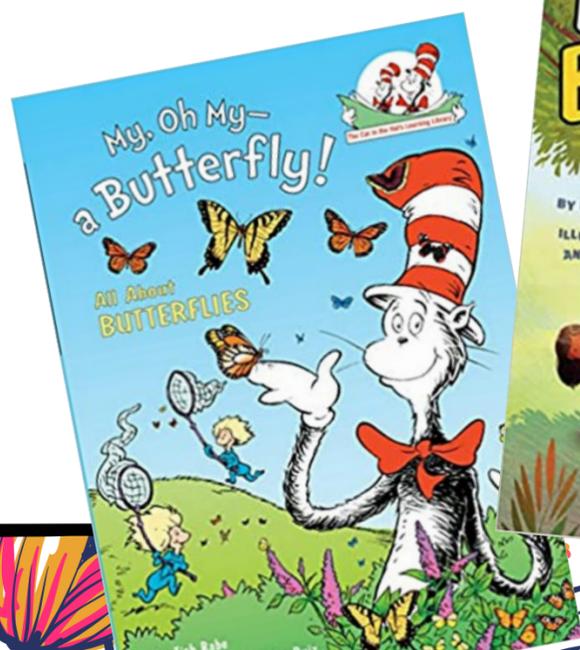
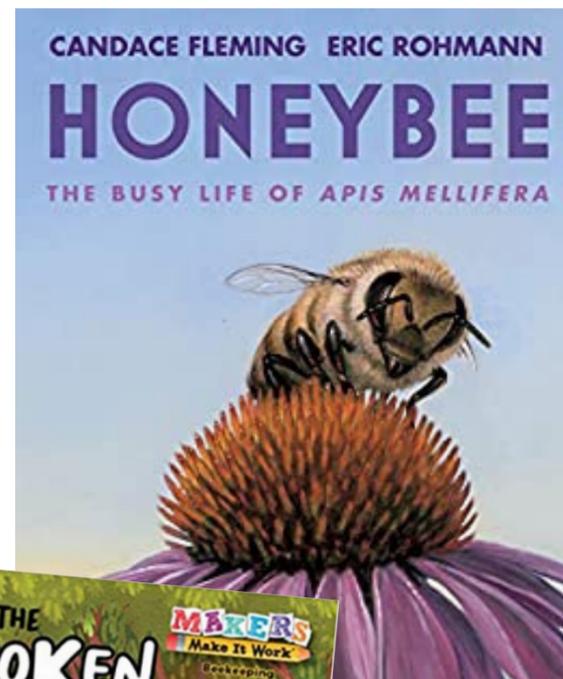
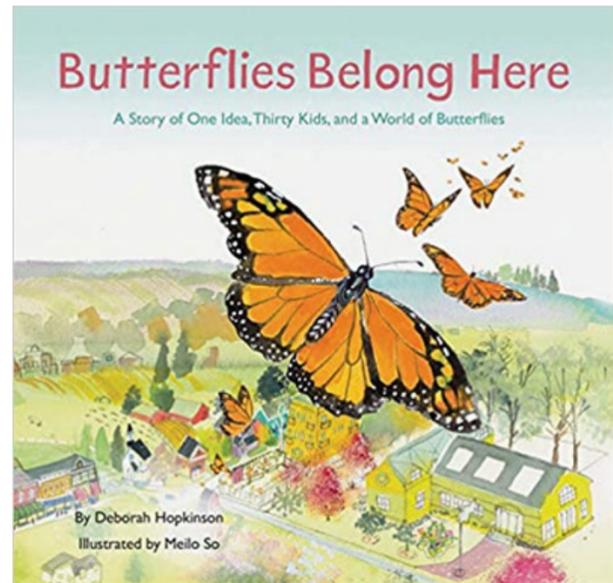
Bee Balm: Bee balm flowers will grab attention with their unique spidery dark pink, red, or purple blossoms. As the name suggests, bees love the flowers, but butterflies and hummingbirds do as well.



Switchgrass: Switchgrass is a prairie grass that is shaped like a fountain. The foliage is blue-green in the summer and then changes to golden-red in the fall. Many insects, including butterflies, lay their eggs on native grasses.



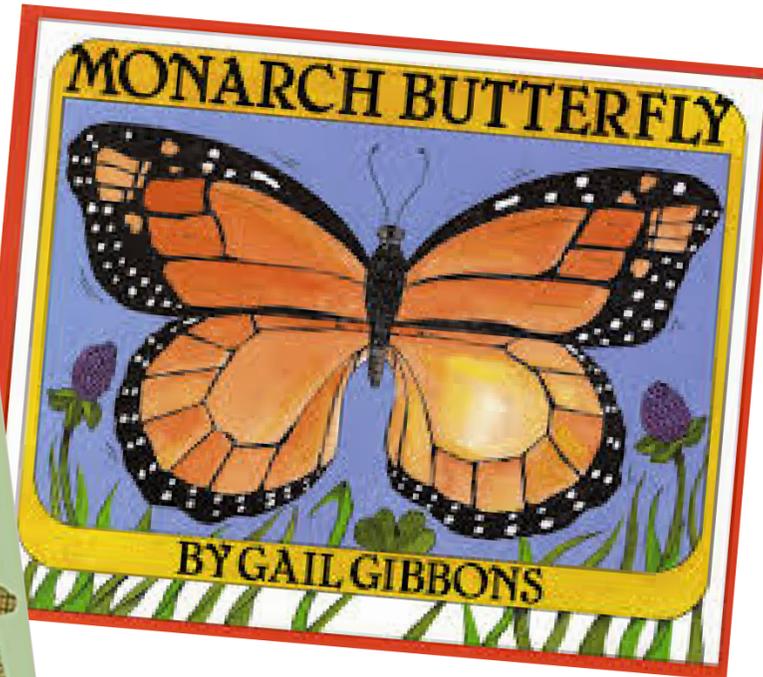
Goldenrod: The mustard yellow flowers of goldenrod are a beautiful sight from late summer to late fall. This late blooming flower provides a much-needed nectar source for many species of bees and butterflies at a time of year when not many other flowers are producing nectar.



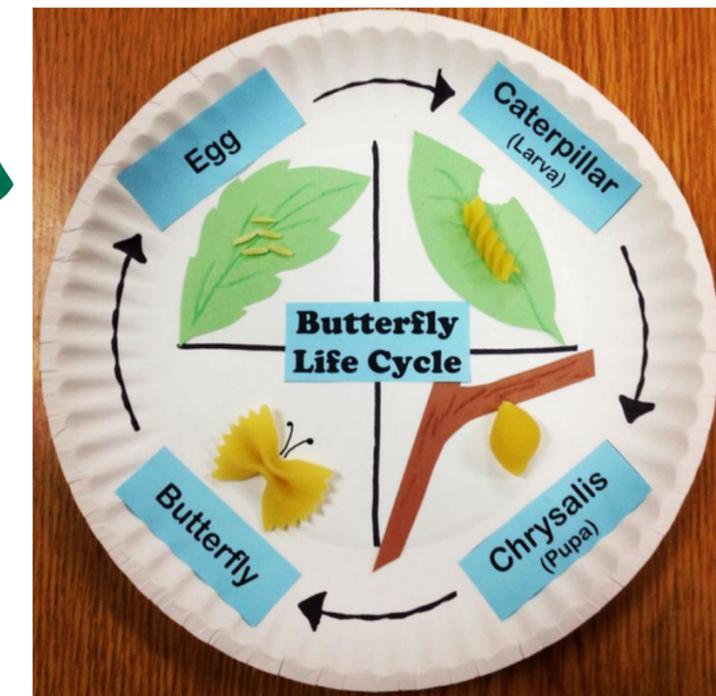
Build a Bee Hotel



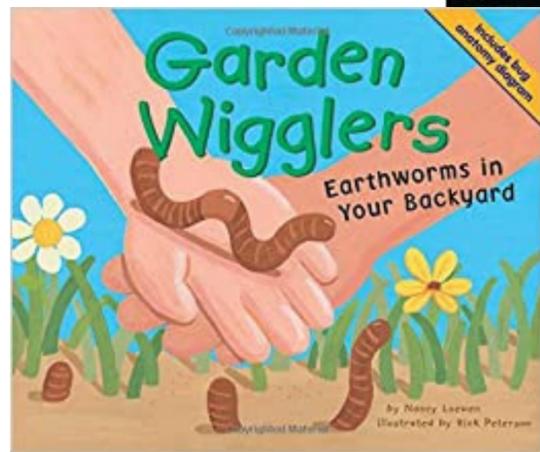
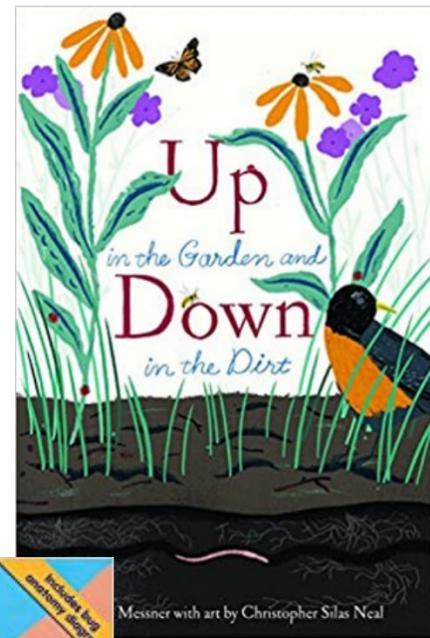
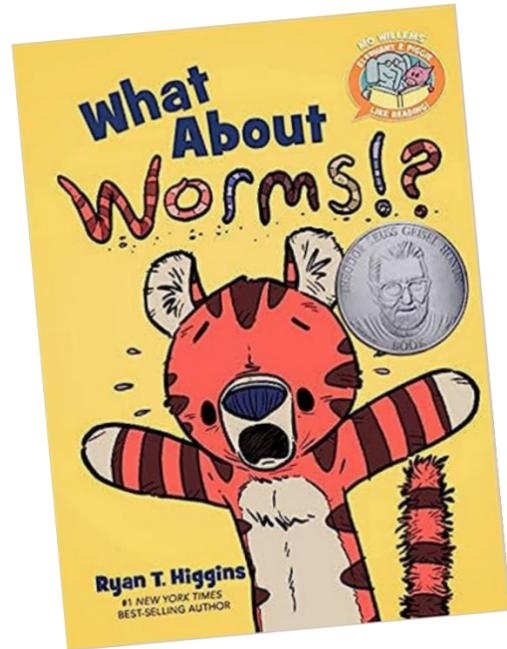
Bag Butterfly



Butterfly Life Cycle

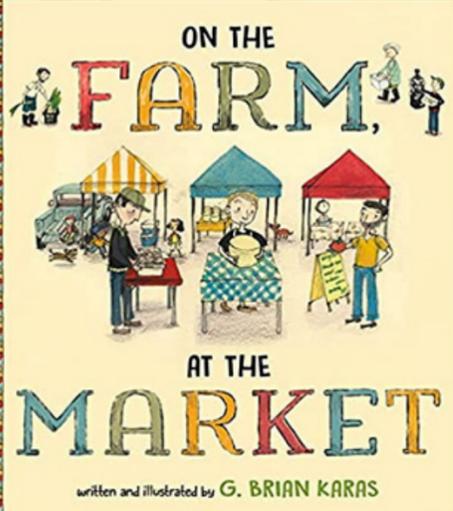


Classroom Vermicomposting



Good Bugs, Bad Bugs Memory

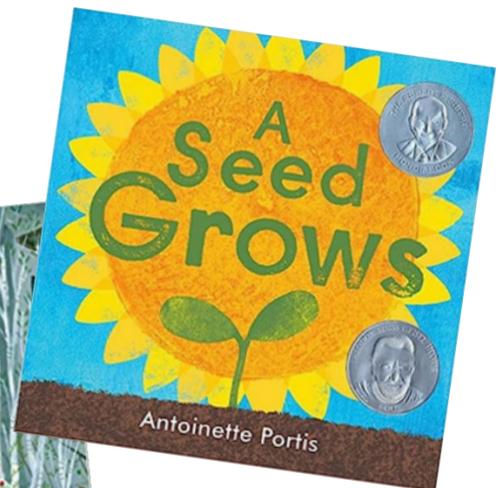
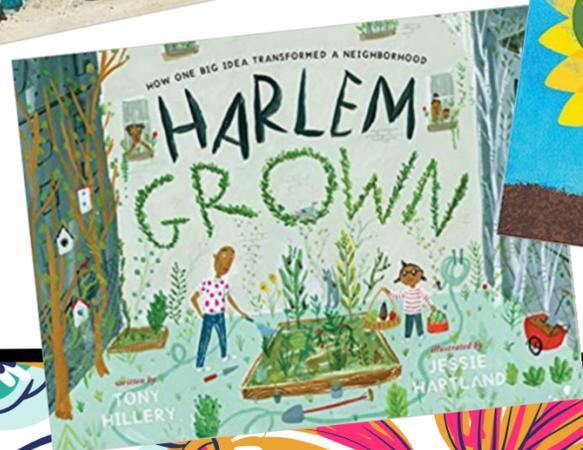
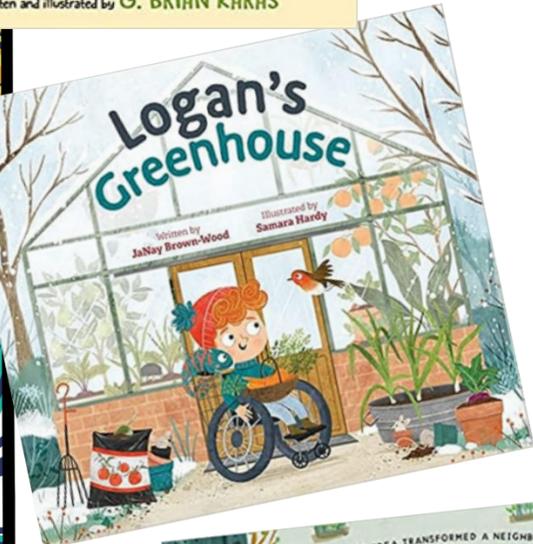
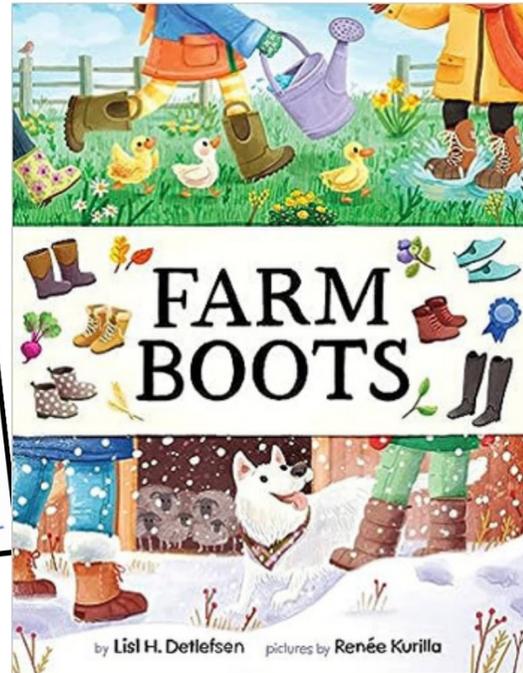
Garden in a Glove



These Rubber Boots Belong To: _____

Describe the work you will do in your new boots:

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Flower 	Fruit
Seed 	Leaf
Stem 	Root



Plant Parts Matching

Thank You!

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