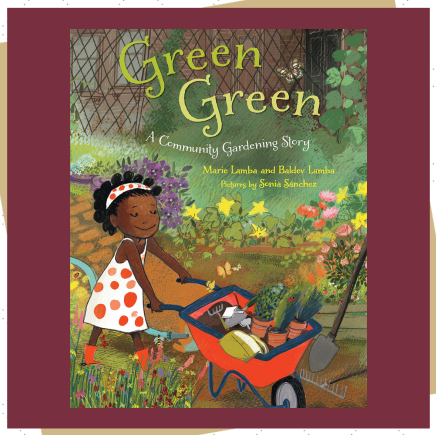

BEYOND THE BOOK GUIDE

Green Green: A Community Gardening Story
By: Marie Lamba and Baldev Lamba

Book Summary

Green grass is wide, fresh and clean for a family to play in and brown dirt is perfect for digging a garden. But when gray buildings start to rise up and a whole city builds, can there be any room for green space? The neighborhood children think so, and they inspire the community to join together and build a garden for everyone to share in the middle of the city.

Before Reading the Story

- Discuss what you see on the cover of the book.
- Make predictions on what the story may be about.
- Let's identify each gardening tool on the cover and let's talk about how they are used.
- Look at the cover closely and let's identify the different insects that we see.
- If you could start a garden think about where would you build it? What kinds of plants, flowers, fruits, and vegetables would you want to grow?

Target Vocabulary

- **Scrape:** to move in sliding contact with a rough surface
- **Tamp:** tapping a surface multiple times until it becomes flatter and more solid
- **Flow:** to move in a continuous and smooth way
- **Litter:** things that have been thrown away and are lying on the ground
- **Lift:** to move something to a higher position
- **Clear:** not covered by anything
- **Community:** a group of people who live in the same area
- **Fresh:** clean and pure

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During the Story

- Read the book aloud with the pictures facing your child.
- Make predictions about the story based on the pictures.
- Provide definitions and connections for any of the target vocabulary words that may be unfamiliar.
- Have your child repeat the words that they do not know.
- Relate the details in the story to events and experiences in your everyday life.
- Ask questions throughout the story to help your child understand what's being read.

After Reading the Story

- Have your child re-read the book in their own words using the illustrations.
- Let's locate the construction vehicles. What are the excavators, dump trucks, and cement mixers doing?
- Let's name the colors of the flowers that were planted in the community garden.
- Let's name the colors of the butterflies that we see in the book.
- Using a piece of paper, draw what you would want your own garden to look like. Be sure to include pictures of what you would want to grow in your garden.

Example Questions to Ask

- In this story, the children built a garden. Have you ever helped build a garden?
- If you could build your own garden, what would you want to grow in it?
- Why do you think people would want to build a garden in a big city?
- Do you think it would take a lot of work to build a garden or do you think it would be easy?
- Finish the sentence from the story: "Brown, brown, dig the _____."
- What is the name of the color they used in the title of the book? What is something you know of that is this color?