GREEN READS FOR KIDS

20 K-6 BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS ON ORCHARDS / ORCHARD FRUIT, COMMUNITY GARDENS & FOOD GROWING, & CULTURAL FOODWAYS

Inspiring young minds & supporting youth eco-literacy

Brought to you in partnership with Children’s Librarian Becky Shaknovich of the Free Library of Philadelphia and Jean Hurd of Historic Fair Hill. Designed by Education Director Alyssa Schimmel with support from interns Ngoc Pham & Bethany Bronkema of The Philadelphia Orchard Project.
Apple Pie ABC by Alison Murray
Published by Little, Brown Books for Young Readers (2011)

When an apple pie arrives piping hot on the kitchen table, a little pup does everything from A to Z to get his paws on it. He Ogles it. He Pines for it. But will his ABC antics land him a slice? APPLE PIE ABC is a delicious twist on traditional verse brought to life by Alison Murray's simple words and whimsical illustrations. Sure to delight readers of all ages, it's a book to savor again and again.

Eating the Alphabet: Fruits & Vegetables from A to Z by Lois Ehlert
Published by HMH Books for Young Readers (1996)

While teaching upper- and lowercase letters to preschoolers, Ehlert introduces fruits and vegetables from around the world. A glossary at the end provides interesting facts about each food.

Mrs. Peanuckle’s Fruit Alphabet by Mrs. Peanuckle
Published September by Rodale Kids (2017)

Mrs. Peanuckle's Fruit Alphabet introduces babies and toddlers to the colorful foods that will help them grow up to be healthy and strong. Children and parents alike will want to devour the fun facts and charming illustrations of fruits from the familiar banana to the not as familiar yumberry. Mrs. Peanuckle’s Fruit Alphabet is the second in a series of board books celebrating the joy nature brings to young children at home and in the backyard, from fresh fruits and vegetables to birds, bugs, flowers, and trees.

Apple Picking Day! by Candance Ransom
Published by Random House Books for Young Readers (2016)

Who doesn’t love to go apple picking at the first sign of fall? A sister and brother celebrate autumn with a trip to a local apple orchard in this simple, rhyming Step 1 early reader. The kids bound with glee through the rows of trees, and race against other children to pick the most and the best apples. The story of their day is bright, fun, and full of light action. It’s told in easy-to-follow rhyme, ensuring a successful reading experience.
At the Orchard by Bruce Esseltine
Published by Gareth Stevens Pub (2017)
Fruit farmers don’t take care of animals, they take care of trees! These orchards are full of delicious treats like apples, oranges, cherries, and even pears. Early readers learn how farmers plant these trees in rows, then take care of them until the trees bear fruit. Through accessible text paired with full-color photographs, readers learn how different orchards grow different fruits and what farmers do when the fruit gets ripe.

Fresh Delicious: Poems From the Farmer’s Market by Irene Latham
Published March by WordSong (2016)
In these vivid poems, blueberries are “flavor-filled fireworks,” cucumbers are “a fleet of green submarines in a wicker sea,” lettuce tastes like “butter and pepper and salt,” but sometimes “I crunch into a leaf the very same flavor as rain.” The unexpected, ingenious imagery and enticing artwork in this collection will inspire the imaginations of young readers, and show how poetry can be as fresh and delicious as the farmers’ market produce it celebrates.

How a Seed Grows by Helene J. Jordan
Published by HarperCollins (1992)
Once, a long time ago, the oak tree in your backyard could have fit your pocket! How can a little acorn grow so big? This book shares the secret of seeds. With the right combination of water, sun, and soil a seed will send roots down into the ground and shoot leaves up into the sunlight. Seeds can grow into flowers or vegetables or even trees. Look inside to learn the simple steps for turning a packet of seeds into a garden.

Kalamata’s Orchard Adventure By Sarah Thomas
Back with another tasty trip, the second book in the Kalamata’s Kitchen series delivers more culinary crusades and family-friendly recipes! Join Kalamata and Al Dente for another food adventure, this time to an apple orchard with Pittsburgh Chef Trevett Hooper, where the group learns about the seemingly endless variety of apples and what home smells like after all.

Seeds Move By Robin Page
Published by Beach Lane Books (2019)
Every seed, big or small, needs sunlight, water, and an uncrowded place to put down roots. But how do seeds get to the perfect place to grow? This exploration of seed dispersal covers a wide range of seeds and the creatures that help them move, from a coconut seed floating on waves to an African grass seed rolled by a dung beetle, to a milkweed seed floating on the wind.
Healthy food becomes much more interesting when children know where they come from. So what's in the garden? Kids will find a variety of fruits and vegetables, from carrots to broccoli, apples to onions. For each vegetable comes a tasty, kid-friendly recipe making this book not only the perfect gardening book for kids, but also a healthy cookbook for kids from 4-8. Author Marianne Berkes consulted with nutritionists and personally made every recipe in the book, to be sure they are both tasty and kid-friendly.

Published by Dawn Publications (2013)

What's in the Garden? By Marianne Berkes

Healthy food becomes much more interesting when children know where they come from. So what's in the garden? Kids will find a variety of fruits and vegetables, from carrots to broccoli, apples to onions. For each vegetable comes a tasty, kid-friendly recipe making this book not only the perfect gardening book for kids, but also a healthy cookbook for kids from 4-8. Author Marianne Berkes consulted with nutritionists and personally made every recipe in the book, to be sure they are both tasty and kid-friendly.

Published by Chronicle Books, 2017

Up in the Garden, Down in the Dirt By Kate Messner

A companion to the new Over and Under the Pond and the beloved Over and Under the Snow, this sweet exploration of the hidden world and many lives of a garden through the course of a year "could not be more lovely," according to the Washington Post. Up in the garden, the world is full of green—leaves and sprouts, growing vegetables, ripening fruit. But down in the dirt there is a busy world of earthworms digging, snakes hunting, skunks burrowing, and all the other animals that make a garden their home. In this exuberant and lyrical book, discover the wonders that lie hidden between stalks, under the shade of leaves...and down in the dirt.

Published by HarperCollins (1994)

City Green By DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan

Right in the middle of Marcy's city block is a vacant lot, littered and forlorn. Sometimes just looking at it makes Marcy feel sad. Then one spring, Marcy has a wonderful idea: Instead of a useless lot, why not a green and growing space for everyone to enjoy? With her warm, hopeful text and inviting illustrations, DyAnne Disalvo-Ryan shows how a whole neighborhood blossoms when people join together and get involved.

Published by HarperCollins (1994)

Independent Readers - Growing In Community
Grades 3-6
Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table By Jacqueline Briggs Martin  
Published by Readers to Eaters (2016)  
Will Allen is no ordinary farmer. A former basketball star, he’s as tall as his truck, and he can hold a cabbage, or a basketball, in one hand. But what is most special about Farmer Will is that he can see what others can’t see. When he looked at an abandoned city lot he saw a huge table, big enough to feed the whole world. No space, no problem. Poor soil, there’s a solution. Need help, found it. Farmer Will is a genius in solving problems. In 2008, the MacArthur Foundation named him one.

Let’s Eat: Sustainable Food for a Hungry Planet By Kimberley Veness  
Published by Orca Book Publishers (2017)  
All the food you eat, whether it’s an apple or a steak or a chocolate-coated cricket, has a story. Let’s Eat uncovers the secret lives of our groceries, exploring alternative—and sometimes bizarre—farm technology and touring gardens up high on corporate rooftops and down low in military-style bunkers beneath city streets. Packed with interesting and sometimes startling facts on agriculture around the world, Let’s Eat reveals everything from the size of the biggest farm in the world to how many pesticides are in a single grape to which insect people prefer to eat.

One Green Apple By Eve Bunting  
Published by Clarion Books; 1 edition (June 12, 2006)  
Farah feels alone, even when surrounded by her classmates. She listens and nods but doesn’t speak. It’s hard being the new kid in school, especially when you’re from another country and don’t know the language. Then, on a field trip to an apple orchard, Farah discovers there are lots of things that sound the same as they did at home, from dogs crunching their food to the ripple of friendly laughter. As she helps the class make apple cider, Farah connects with the other students and begins to feel that she belongs.

Our Community Garden By Barbara Pollack  
Published by Aladdin/Beyond Words (2004)  
If you could plant a garden that would represent your personality, what would it include? Maybe cherry tomatoes, green peppers, and delicious strawberries? Audrey Aubergine and her friends do just that in their neighborhood’s community garden, where they play hide-and-seek, tend giant sunflowers, and discover nature’s possibilities.
Seedfolks By Paul Fleischman
Published by HarperTrophy (2004)

A Vietnamese girl plants six lima beans in a Cleveland vacant lot. Looking down on the immigrant-filled neighborhood, a Romanian woman watches suspiciously. A school janitor gets involved, then a Guatemalan family. Then muscle-bound Curtis, trying to win back Lateesha. Pregnant Maricela. Amir from India. A sense of community sprouts and spreads.

The First Strawberries: A Cherokee Story
By Joseph Bruchac
Published by Puffin Books; Reprint edition (June 1, 1998)

From an award-winning Native American storyteller comes this captivating re-telling of a Cherokee legend, which explains how strawberries came to be. Long ago, the first man and woman quarrelled. The woman left in anger, but the Sun sent tempting berries to Earth to slow the wife's retreat.

Mangoes & Monkeybread by Emily Joof
Published by Mbifebooks (July 28, 2019)

Ella & Louis have just arrived in The Gambia for their winter holidays. Settling at home, Louis is already missing sweet strawberries from Stockholm. Join Ella as she takes her brother on a yummy fruit tasting tour and discover fruits native to West Africa that you might have never seen before! Along the way, see if you can find Happy, their adorable little dog who loves a game of hide and seek! A light-hearted journey of discovery with beautiful illustrations and photographs. This charming book shares some of the beauty found in the smallest country in Africa.

What Can You Do With A Paleta? By Carmen Tafolla
Published by Tricycle Press (2009)

Where the paleta wagon rings its tinkly bell and carries a treasure of icy paletas in every color of the sarape . . As she strolls through her barrio, a young girl introduces readers to the frozen, fruit-flavored treat that thrills Mexican and Mexican-American children. Create a masterpiece, make tough choices (strawberry or coconut?), or cool off on a warm summer’s day--there’s so much to do with a paleta.