



A WISH IS A SEED

Activities and Discussion Questions

By Jessica Young

Note: These activities and questions can help students engage with the book in different ways, including: listening and visualizing; thinking about how text and images work together to tell a story; making connections to life experiences and other texts; researching; experimenting with different points of view; responding to the book and discussing thoughts and feelings with others; creating stories, poems, and illustrations; identifying and experimenting with tools for written and visual expression; and observing the structure of seeds and how they grow. The questions can be adjusted for different age levels, and some activities may require adult direction/supervision.

1. Words and Pictures

In most picture books, the words and illustrations go together to make a story. Sometimes the illustrations tell a story that's different than the one that's told by the words. Listen as I read the book aloud. Notice if any images come into your mind as you listen to the words. Are there any images that stand out for different parts of the story? Compare your thoughts with a friend.

Now let's read the book, looking at the illustrations. How do they compare to what you pictured in your mind? How do the illustrations add to the story that's told through the words? What do you think is the seed's story? What do you think is the human characters' story?

2. Same and Different

Compare and contrast a wish and a seed. How are they alike? (For example, they both start small and can grow into something big.) How are they different? Make a Venn diagram with two overlapping circles to show how a wish and a seed are similar and different.

3. Metaphors

Metaphors are used to compare one thing to another and to make the reader think about things in a new way. Rather than just saying one thing is *like* something else, a metaphor says that one thing *is* something else. What metaphor is used throughout the book? Try to think of another metaphor that compares one thing to another. Start with the structure: *A _____ is a _____*. Then try to build on your metaphor to create a poem or story or illustrate the metaphor using your favorite art materials.

4. Conflict

In the book, the seed encounters obstacles on its journey, and that creates conflict in the story. What were some of the difficult things the seed had to overcome? Can you think of a character in

another book who had to solve problems or make it through tough times? Do you think people are stronger after going through adversity? Discuss your thoughts with a partner.

5. Make a Wish

If you could wish for anything, what would it be? What obstacles might you have to overcome for your wish to come true?

6. Tiny, Powerful Things

Seeds are small, but they have the potential to grow into something big. What other powerful things come in small packages?

7. Water and Wait

Seeds need certain things to germinate and grow. So do wishes. Have you ever had to wait a long time for a wish to come true? Are you waiting for a wish now? What is/was your wish (if you want to share it)?

8. Seed to Tree

Research the life cycle of a maple tree and write a summary using third-person point of view, starting with a maple seed and how it finds a place to grow. Rewrite your summary using first person (“I”), from the point of view of the seed. Then try second-person “you” for an extra challenge.

9. Seed Collecting

Look at pictures of seeds — or find real ones. Different types of seeds travel in different ways. Some are carried on the wind, while others hitch a ride on animals. Some are fluffy, and some have wings. Some even float in water. Does the structure and size of a seed give you clues about how it travels and what it might grow into? Discuss with a partner and explain your answer.

10. Working Toward Wishes

Think about a wish you would like to come true. Some wishes aren’t up to us, and some are so big, they take more than one person to make a reality. Sometimes there are things we can do to help make a wish come true. For example, if we wish for world peace, what’s one thing we could do to help in our small part of the world? (Treating people we encounter with kindness and respect would be one way to work towards that bigger wish.)

11. Action Words

Sometimes the way a book is designed and the way the words are written can reinforce the idea that the words are getting across. Read the book and think about where the text—or writing—has been placed on the pages and how it’s broken up or written in different ways. Find a page where the way the words are written reflects the idea that the words are conveying.

Now think of a verb or action word. See how many ways you can write that word to reflect its meaning. Play with the size, style, and color of each letter, the direction the word is written in, and the placement of the letters on the page. Think about putting motion lines around the word or other ways to show what the word means.

12. Above and Under Ground

In order for the seed in the story to grow, it sends down roots to anchor it in the earth and gather the water and nutrients it needs from the soil. Watch a video of a seed sending down roots, sprouting, and growing. Then draw a picture of a flower or tree, showing an underground and an above-ground view. What other insects or animals could you illustrate in this underground world?

13. Plant a Seed

Follow the directions on the package and plant a seed in a flower pot or peat pot. Different seeds require different spacing and different amounts of soil covering them. Check the package for watering instructions and for where to put your pot so the seed will grow.

14. Seeded Paper

There are many online tutorials and books for making seeded paper. Get an adult to help you make your own seeded paper that can be used for cards or ornaments then planted to grow wildflowers for pollinators.