

Ideas for Language Arts Lessons

From the New Jersey Agricultural Society's Learning Through Gardening Program

Read fiction and nonfiction books about the garden and fruits and vegetables. See the list on page 276.

1) Write garden poetry. Read the books I Heard it from Alice Zucchini by Juanita Haville and Anna's Garden Songs by Mary Q. Steele.

2) Create a school newsletter about the garden.

3) Practice writing informative essays - how-to's about the garden - to practice for standardized testing.

4) Write creatively. Write stories about what happens in the garden when the students are not there: talking vegetables, bug wars, fairy stories, tiny people, bird adventures, worm diaries, etc.

5) Keep a garden journal with observations, ideas, feeling, experiments, drawings about the garden.

6) Study agricultural terms and use them as personal spelling words. For primary grades use words such as: crops, farm, barn, tractor, farmhouse, animals, plow, fields, fence, wagon, seed, plant. For older grades, use words and terms such as: cultivation, agriculture, agribusiness, combine, animal husbandry, crop rotation, plantation, organic, pesticides, acre, cooperative, furrow, dairy, terrain, fertile, germinate, photosynthesis.

7) Become pen pals with students from another school gardening program, another state, or another country and compare garden experiences.

8) Write letters to businesses to ask them to donate tools, seeds, or other garden necessities.

- 9) Write and compile a class gardening book with gardening instruction and advice.
- 10) Learn to use field books to identify plants, weeds, birds, insects.11) Write plays about favorite garden stories (Jack and the Beanstalk, Peter Rabbit) and act them out in the garden with puppets made of popsicle sticks.
- 12) Read Talia and the Rude Vegetables by Linda Elovitz Marshall and explore personification and alliteration.
- 13) Read I Will Never Not Ever Eat a Tomato by Lauren Child and write fantasies involving fruits and vegetables.
- 14) Read Pick a Circle, Gather Squares; A Harvest of Shapes by Felicia Chernesky. Go to the garden and see what shapes - ovals, circles, rectangles, squares - you can find there.

