

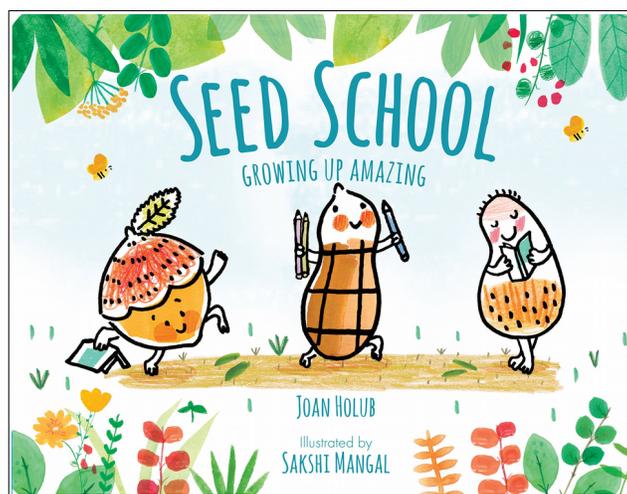
Seed School

By Joan Holub

*Lesson ideas from the New Jersey Agricultural Society's
Learning Through Gardening program*

GRADES: K-3

SYNOPSIS: At seed school, seeds of all shapes and sizes learn what they need to know in order to grow up and become plants. They explore what plants need to grow, as well as pollination and photosynthesis. When winter comes, school is out and they all disburse to go to sleep. While some of the seeds sprout and grow up in just one season, one odd-looking seed with a cap takes many years to become the strong oak he was destined to be.



ACTIVITIES: This fun and engaging book contains much information about seeds and what happens in the garden. Depending on the age of the students, the book can be read a few pages at a time, and the class can discuss the information and compare it to their garden or other experiments that have been done in class.

- **Seed Sorting:** All but one of the seeds in Seed School know what they will be when they grow up. Students can do some seed sorting and discuss how the plants the seeds will become differ from one another. (See the Basic Gardening Lesson *Seed Investigators*.)
- **What Plants Need To Grow:** The seed school students discuss what they will need to grow up. Students can do experiments that prove plants need soil, sun, water, and air. (See the Basic Gardening lesson *Do Plants Really Need Light?*)
- **Plants Can Sense Gravity:** The student seeds learn the top two rules of growing: stems grow up and roots grow down. Do an experiment that proves no matter which way a seed is pointed, the stems grow up and the roots grow down. (See the Basic Gardening lesson: *Can Plants Sense Gravity? Discovering Gravitropism*.)

- How Do the Seasons Change Plants: The seeds learn what will happen to them in each season. Students can make a picture timeline showing what will happen to a plant in the school garden during each season.
- Photosynthesis: The leaf librarian pays the seeds a visit to discuss photosynthesis and the process of making food for plants. Students can act out the process of photosynthesis. (See the Language Arts lesson *You Are Made of Sunshine*.)
- Pollination: Principal Bee buzzes into class to talk to the seeds about pollination. Students can act out the process of pollination in the classroom. (See the Science lessons *Pollination - A Sticky Situation* or *Bees, The Great Pollinators*.)

Extensions:

Turn the Seed School story into a play that can be performed for another class.

Discuss what other lessons might be taught to the seeds in seed school.

Compare and discuss what children need to grow up amazing.