



A Seed Is the Start

By Melissa Stewart

About the Book

Meet seeds that pop, hop, creep, and explode in this lyrical introduction to plant growth and seed dispersal. Stunning photographs and fact-packed text showcase the role of seed features and functions in creating a new generation of plants. Complete with an illustrated glossary, resources, and an index, *A Seed Is the Start* inspires wonder as it encourages budding botanists of all ages to look with new eyes at plants and their seeds.

Read Aloud Tip

A Seed Is the Start features two kinds of text. When sharing the book with young children, read the large main text first. Then you can fill in details from the secondary text as appropriate. You may wish to re-read the main text before turning the page.

You could also share just a few of the spreads that highlight specific seeds in their entirety. For example, you could choose plants that live in your area or that you think will be especially interesting to your students

Before You Read

- Invite children to share what they think the book will be about.
- Ask the children to describe a seed. Do they think a seed is alive? What is their rationale?
- Show the children the following list of words: fly, spin, glide, tumble, spill, splash, float, drift, pop, hop, creep, hook, cling, ride inside, ride outside. After reading the words together, invite volunteers to act out each verb. Then ask the children: *How do you think these words might be related to seeds?* After recording their ideas, let them know that you're going to read a book about the many different ways seeds can move.

After You Read

- Ask the children: *What do you notice about the format of this book? How is it organized?* (There are two layers of text. The larger, main text describes seed actions and presents a main idea. The smaller, secondary text provides supporting details.) Then ask: *What is the main idea of this book?* (Plants grow best when their seeds move away from their parent plant, and seeds have many ways of dispersing. Some are carried to new places by wind, water, or animals. Others propel themselves.)
- Work with the children to make a list of the ways seeds travel from place to place. Then ask them to draw a picture showing one kind of seed dispersal that surprised them.