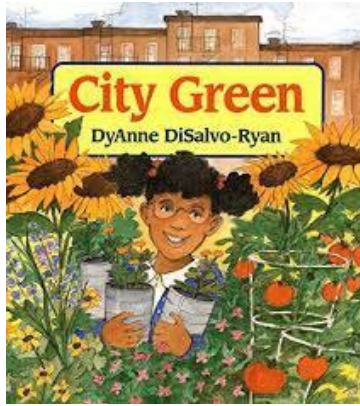


City Green



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Topics: What it means to be an American citizen, Community building, Rights and responsibilities, etc.

Genres: Community stories, Community garden, Picture books, Intergenerational stories

When an old building gets torn down, leaving behind an empty lot, Marcy and Miss Rosa hatch a plan to turn the lot into a community garden! With the help of neighbors, Marcy and Miss Rosa lease the empty land from the city. Creating a community garden gives new meaning to an important place in their neighborhood's history.

Before the Read Aloud:

Do you have a garden in your home or community? Have you ever been to a garden? What kind of plants did you see? What makes a community garden different from a public park?

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During the Read Aloud:

1. Why did Marcy and Miss Rosa have to go to City Hall to lease the lot? Why were they not allowed to plant things there without permission from the city?
2. Are there any empty lots in your neighborhood? Do you know what was there before it was empty? If not, what do you imagine it could have been? If you could do anything with an empty lot, what would you do?
3. How did the community garden benefit everyone in the neighborhood? Why do you think all the neighbors were so willing to help out? When you do big projects, is it easier when you work alone or when you get help from others?

Take Action Project:

Why do you think Old Man Hammer was so unpleasant? What made him happy at the end of the book? What are some ways we can show kindness to people like Marcy showed to Old Man Hammer?

OR

Take pictures of community gardens in your neighborhood or places that could become community gardens. Talk to your local elected official, a community organization leader, or parks department employee, to see if your spot can become a community garden.

