

Spring Seed Sow

March

Garden Parent Outdoor Lesson - Spinach & Arugula (or other assigned seeds)

Objective: To observe early signs of spring and contribute to early spring planting in the school garden. Students can learn an Early Spring Poem: **Spring Grass**, Carl Sandburg - Be inspired to write your own spring poem.

Time/location: The entire lesson can be done in 30-45 minutes in the school garden.

Materials: Prepared Bed, Seeds with marked in envelopes, craft sticks for labeling, watering cans, trowels..

Poem: **Spring Grass**, Carl Sandburg

Before the Lesson: Gather the students on the side of the bed they will be planting, and clarify which section of the bed they are planting, especially if other sections have been planted before.

The Lesson:

Part 1 /

Your planting bed has been marked with string. (See photo)

The seeds are in a marked envelope ('Teacher name, Spinach & Arugula') in a sealed plastic box right inside the garden shed- (lock combo 4-22-16)

SPINACH & ARUGULA (or other)

- You could bring out the bucket of cultivators, and have the students smooth out the bed,
- Help them prep 3 rows about 1 palm's distance apart (using their hands or a stick)
- The rows should be ¼" to ½" deep.
- You can have the kids use sections of their pointer finger to estimate depth of holes, and 1" distance,
- Use rulers or the palm of their hand to estimate row distance.
- Plant the seeds about 1" apart along the length of the row.
- COVER up the seeds at the very end.
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Part 2 / Poetry & Movement (September) 10 min Gather in a circle, and read this poem with a movement exercise.

- Ask students to silently use all of their senses to observe nature. What natural objects do they see? What do they hear? What do they smell? What do they feel? How would they describe those objects?
- Close eyes while you share one of these poems "Spring Grass" with them. What did they visualize while you were reading the poem? How did Carl Sandburg use descriptive language in this poem? How did he use all his senses in writing this poem? (smell—young spring grass, hear—shoots of the big green whisper)
- Re-read the poem to the class. What words do they hear repeated throughout the poem? (come up, spring grass)
- Have the students stand up. As you re-read the poem, they will be adding movements. Every time you read the words spring grass, they need to crouch down and spring into the air. Every time you read the words come up, they need to jump up and down. Re-read the poem again adding the movements

Spring Grass by [Carl Sandburg](#)

Spring grass, there is a dance to be danced for you.

Come up, spring grass, if only for young feet.

Come up, spring grass, young feet ask you.

Smell of the young spring grass,

You're a mascot riding on the wind horses.

You came to my nose and spiffed me. This is your lucky year.

Young spring grass just after the winter,

Shoots of the big green whisper of the year,

Come up, if only for young feet.

Come up, young feet ask you.