

From Our Library:

Titles for Studying Seed Dispersal



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Fall isn't just about leaves falling from trees - it's about seed dispersal, too! As summer's lush plants turn to brown, crumble, and collapse, seeds are being dispersed left and right. Studies of seed dispersal can illuminate secrets to plant reproduction and inspire seed collection, and can bring learners closer to the landscape that surrounds them. Pair these titles with seed pod collection, plant dissection, and other hands-on seed-centric activities.

Key

Genre

F = Fiction

N = Nonfiction

Book Style

P = picture book

C = chapter book/complex text

Age Range

Y = young children, ages 0-5

C = children, ages 6-10

Tw = tweens, ages 11-13

T = teens, ages 14-18

A = adult, ages 19+

All books are marked with genre, book style, and age range within parenthesis.

NARRATIVE NONFICTION

What Will Grow?, Jennifer Ward (N, P, Y & C)

Clever rhymes about seeds, the plants they create, and the creatures who enjoy eating them are paired with artistic illustrations - the addition of some fold-out pages makes this an exciting and engaging text for young readers.

A Seed is Sleepy, Diana Hutts Aston and Sylvia Long (N, P, C+)

This beautifully illustrated text is layered, offering 3 different levels of depth at which it can be read. At its most simplistic, it provides an overview of the attributes of many different seeds. At its most complex, the text teaches topic-specific vocabulary, utilizes scientific diagrams, and shares data.

Traveling Seeds, Rebecca Bielawski (N, P, all ages)

A pear falls from a tree in a field. It's filled with seeds, and is eaten by a cow. What will happen to the seed?

A Fruit is a Suitcase for Seeds, Jean Richards (N, P, all ages)

Basic text guides readers through an expiration of the different types of seeds that can be found within a variety of common fruits.

Planting the Wild Garden, Kathryn Galbraith (N, P, all ages)

A garden's worth of seeds is planted in the springtime, but some of the seeds travel away from the garden anyway - even before seed dispersal happens naturally in the life cycle of the garden plants.

Who Will Plant a Tree?, Jerry Pallotta (N, P, C+)

Creatures around the world contribute to the dispersal of seeds. This story spotlights the role that creature allies play in the planting of trees by teaching about the special rolls that certain creatures play in tree seed dispersal.

Flip, Float, Fly: Seeds on the Move, Joann Early Macken (N, P, C+)

When wind carries a seed, where does it go? What happens to it? Follow a maple samara (seed) from a tree, into a puddle, and then into the wind to find out what its journey from seed to tree looks like.

Seeds, Ken Robbins (N, P, Y & C)

Beautiful seed-centric photography alongside simplistic text makes this an engaging and exciting text for young readers.

NARRATIVE FICTION

Miss Rumphius, Barbara Cooney (N, P, C+)

This Maine coast classic tells the story of a woman who sows lupine throughout the landscape as a way of making the world just a bit more beautiful. While lupine is a non-native species in Maine (and therefore not one to spread), the story can spark discussion of human transformation of land through simple seed dispersal.

The Giant Seed, Arthur Geisert (N, P, Y & C)

This word-less picture book tells the story of a community of pigs who must escape an island before a volcano erupts. Luckily, a dandelion seed comes along and saves the day. Can you guess how?

Miss Maple's Seeds, Eliza Wheeler (N, P, all ages)

Miss Maple collects seeds that have not yet found the perfect place to grow. She keeps them for the winter, then offers them a comfortable place to lay down roots when the warm weather returns. In addition to teaching about seed saving and seed dispersal, this text doubles as a metaphor for the potential that lies inside each of us.

COUNTING

Ten Seeds, Ruth Brown (N, P, Y & C)

Count down from 10 while following the life of a group of seeds. On each page, something happens to lessen the seeds' numbers - all through natural hazards!

REFERENCE

The Pictorial Guide to Seeds of the World, Terry A. Woodger (N, P, C+)

This extensive resource covers the basics of collection, cleaning, and storage of seeds of all kinds.

Eyewitness: Plant, David Burnie (N, P, all ages)

This book offers extensive information about plants of all kinds. One small section focuses on seeds and seed dispersal and can easily be used in isolation during a seed dispersal study.