

# Holly Bloom's Garden

by Sarah Ashman & Nancy Parent

Brightly colored flowers and the warmth of summer jump off the page and tell the story of a little girl, her desire to grow flowers and her creative solution for her non-green thumb.



## Read

### Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *What color of flowers would you plant in your garden?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder how that flower grew as tall as the girl?

### During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

### Rare Words in *Holly Bloom's Garden*

- grouchy: a bad mood
- thorns: sharp points on a plant stem
- rosebush: a rose growing as a bush rather than as a climber
- bloom: flowering
- disappeared: to vanish from sight
- dahlias: a perennial flowering plant
- fertilizer: a substance aiding a plant's growth
- hoe: a weeding tool used in gardening
- trowel: a flat-bladed hand tool used by gardeners
- daisies: low-growing flowering plant with white petals and a yellow center
- petunias: a tropical plant with bright flowers
- pathetic: pitiful, inadequate
- bluebells: a plant of North America, blue in color
- gardenias: white flowers, very fragrant
- daffodils: a springtime plant with trumpet-shaped flowers
- snapdragons: a common garden flower with spikes of flowers in various colors
- tulips: a plant with cup-shaped flowers in various colors
- chrysanthemums: a flower with petal clusters, small and varied in shape

## After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Why was Holly so grouchy?
- How did Rosie try and help Holly? Bud?
- What did Holly do to her thumb? Did it help her grow the flowers?
- What other things did Holly try?
- What happened to the flowers when Holly tried to water them?
- Can you describe everyone else's flowers? How did that make Holly feel?
- Where did Holly go after everyone fell asleep?
- The next morning Holly had a surprise. What was the surprise?
- How did she make the flowers grow? Describe some of the flowers Holly made.



**Do**

## Chalk-Dust Daisies

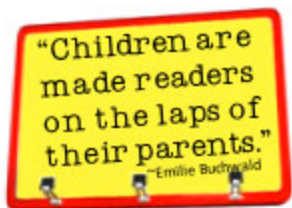
You will need: an assortment of large sized chalk, paper bowls, paint brushes, water and the *Daisy* printable sheet

Before the activity: shave or chop up the large chalk into smaller pieces. Add water (just enough to dilute the chalk)

Hand each child the *Daisy* sheet and a paint brush. In the middle of the table set out each chalk paint bowl, for everyone to share. Allow the children enough time to paint their daisy with the chalk dust. Allow to dry.

My Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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