

# Read and Grow Across America

This unique challenge invites children to explore reading, characters and story development.

## Instructions for the Reading Garden Challenge

1. **Read Together:** Parents or teachers should read the classroom books with their kids that match the following themes:

- A bug, insect or worm
- An animal
- Flower, tree, plant or seed
- Fruits or vegetables
- A farmer or gardener
- 6<sup>th</sup> box: You choose weather conditions: Rain, sun, wind

*(Note: if time is an issue, 3 books that cover more than one of these themes could be used)*

2. **Create Your Garden:** After reading each book, children will draw an element from the story into their garden.

**For example:**

- Draw the insect from the bug book
- Add a flower or tree from the plant book
- Include the sun or rain from the weather book, and so on
- In the 6<sup>th</sup> box, they can choose the weather condition

**MY READING GARDEN**  
Draw from the books you have read.

BUG OF INSECT	AN ANIMAL	FLOWER, TREE or PLANT
FRUITS or VEGETABLES	FARMER or GARDENER	WEATHER CONDITION

Now, create your own story about their garden. Use characters from the books in YOUR story.

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3. **Make a Story:** Once the garden is complete after the classroom has read 5 books, children can create their own story about their garden. They can use characters or elements from the books to weave their tale.

4. **Share & Reflect:** At the end of the worksheet:

- **Question:** “What do you like most about your garden and story?”
- Kids can share their garden and story with their class or family.

\*Optional: Kids could draw their final garden on the backside of the page.

**Here’s some possible book recommendations but please adjust for age and reading level preferences:**

- **Bug/Insect:**
  - *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle
  - *Diary of a Worm* by Doreen Cronin
- **Flower/Tree/Plant:**
  - *The Tiny Seed* by Eric Carle
  - *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein
- **Farm Animal:**
  - *The Little Red Hen* by Paul Galdone
  - Chicken Little (or one of the many fun re-tellings of Henny Penny)
- **Fruits and Vegetables:**
  - *Eating the Alphabet* by Lois Ehlert
  - *Tops & Bottoms* by Janet Stevens
- **Farmer or Gardner:**
  - *Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type* by Doreen Cronin
  - *Farmer Duck* by Martin Waddell
  - *Old MacDonald Had a Farm* by Various Authors
  - *The Little Red Hen* by Paul Galdone

