

The Sunflower Tree

Teacher's Notes

Early Level 12

Literacy Connections

Word Count: 255 words (including title)

Reading Skills:

Reading for meaning
Using HFW and known vocabulary
Re-reading when meaning is lost
Comprehension

Decoding Skills

High Frequency Words: great, every, came, wanted, one, told, happy, began, very, now, over, through, until, soon

Blends:
"sh" – shade, shoot
"gr" – green, great, grow, grew
"fl" – sunflower
"ow" – flower, grow, town, now

Word Study:
"tall", "small"
"saw", "was"

Text Features:
Speech marks
Contractions
Compound words

Content Connections

- Plants
 - Life cycles
 - Parts of a plant
 - Growing plants
- Measurement
- Taking care and having responsibility for something

Content Words:

sunflower, planted, seed, tree, shade, watered, green, shoot, sun, grow, branch, leaves

Suggested Activities

- Look at the "ow" sound, record words from the story that have this sound. Study them and learn how this sound can change.
- Write instructions on how to grow sunflowers.
- Identify the problems Mr Potty had growing the sunflowers. Record the problems and solutions on a chart.
- Grow sunflowers. Measure the growth and record the development on a graph.
- Allow each student to plant a seed and take responsibility for its care.
- Visit the garden centre to see the huge variety of plants. Take time to do observational drawings, giving attention to detail in form, shape, line and texture.
- Introduce the concept of life cycle. Together with the students, use the information about sunflowers to draw a life cycle
- Show the students pictures of sunflowers painted by famous artists. Give them the opportunity to create their own masterpieces.