



Grade 4 Discussion Questions

RI: 4.3 Explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text, including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text.

- The author says that Will Allen can "see what others can't see." What did Will Allen "see?" Use evidence from the text to support your answers.
- Describe Will Allen's personality? Find text evidence to support your ideas. What qualities do you think Will Allen would say you would need to make changes in your community and/or the world?
- How did Will Allen make his community and the world a better place - creating a "growing table"? Reference the text to support your ideas.
- Compare/Contrast Will Allen's community from yours. How are they different? How are they the same?

Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table

By Jacqueline Briggs Martin,
Illustrated by Eric-Shabazz Larkin
(2013)
GRADES for USE: 4th Grade

Grade 4 Activities and Discussion Questions

RI 4.5 Describe the overall structure (e.g., chronology, comparison, cause/effect, problem/solution) of events, ideas, concepts, or information in a text or part of a text.

- Create a (chronological) timeline of the text *Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table* (at least 10 events).
- Even though the overall structure is chronological, the author uses problem-solution to show Will's determination. Using your timeline, identify the problems Will faced and explain how he solves them.
- These organizational structures help us learn information.
 - What did you learn about the process of creating a community garden?
 - What did you learn about gardening and growing food?

SUMMARY OF BOOK:

Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table is a non-fiction picture book that tells how a former professional basketball player, Will Allen, purchases a vacant city lot with greenhouses and transforms it into a thriving urban farm. Will Allen left his farm in Maryland to pursue his first dream: basketball. Will Allen had to solve many problems to make his dream a reality. This book celebrates communities coming together to achieve a common goal.

Grade 4 Discussion Questions

S.L. 4.1c Pose and respond to specific questions to clarify or follow up on information, and make comments that contribute to the discussion and link to the remarks of others.

Suppose you are planning to start a community garden - discuss the following ideas in small groups:

- Why would you want to start a community garden?
- How would the Barron Community benefit from a community garden?
- What problems do you predict you may encounter when creating an action plan for your community garden?

Grade 4 Activities

W 4.1a: Introduce a topic or text clearly, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure in which related ideas are grouped to support the writer's purpose.

Based on your discussions, write a letter to Will Allen, the Barron Gardening Club (or another resource that might have some helpful information) asking for help in solving problems with creating Community garden. Ask the same questions as your group discussed (see above).