

The Flower Ball

by Sigrid Laube

Can vegetables and flowers ever exist together in harmony? Being accepted because you are different and learning to include others that are not in your circle of friends are themes found throughout the *The Flower Ball*.



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, *If you were a flower, what would your name be?* 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 what kind of flower the guy is?

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 *The Flower Ball*

- proclaimed: to declare something publicly
- cauliflower: a flower head eaten as a vegetable
- scolded: to speak harshly to someone
- chirped: a short high-pitched sound
- radishes: an edible root, red and eaten raw
- sagely: a wise person
- ornamental: decorative
- trembling: to shake slightly but uncontrollably
- tuber: the fleshy underground plant part
- spruced: to make a person or place cleaner and neater in appearance
- strolled: to walk unhurriedly
- dreadfully: very unsatisfactory or unpleasant
- crude: unskillful, vulgar or in a raw state
- bristled: to become offended
- ferociously: fierce, extreme or savage
- tedious: boring because of being long or repetitive
- balmy: pleasantly mild and warm
- curiosity: a desire to know something
- jaunty: to be happy and carefree

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What did Cauliflower receive in the mail? What was he invited to attend?
- How did some of the other vegetables react to the invite?
- Why did the Radishes not want Cauliflower to go to the ball?
- Who decided that she would attend the ball with Cauliflower?
- Can you describe what the ball looked like? Who was all there?
- How did some of the flowers react to the vegetables attending the ball?
- Why were the flowers being so mean to the vegetables? How did Cauliflower and Carrot react?
- What happened when Cauliflower and Carrot decided to dance?
- Did the flowers and vegetables ever become friends? What happened at the end of the ball?



Do

Classroom Ball

After reading the story, add hats, dress shoes, dresses, vests, gloves, purses and other "formal" items to the dramatic play area/center. Allow the children to dress up, pretend they are at a ball and dance to music. If desired, you can teach some ballroom etiquette, for example, how to bow and curtsy.