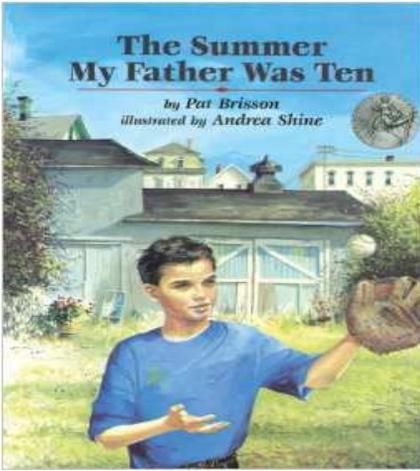


May 2014

Dear Colleagues,

This month we are excited to share a heartfelt story of a young girl who shares in the joy of planting a garden as she listens to her father recount a story from his childhood. *The Summer My Father Was Ten* by Pat Brisson engages readers of all ages and encourages us all to hold onto small moments in our lives.



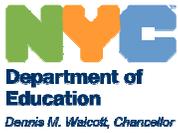
The story the father tells is of the summer he was ten and what happened to Mr. Bellavista's garden. While playing baseball with his friends, the ball went into Mr. Bellavista's tomato garden. The young girl's dad picked up the tomato and threw it back, which resulted in the destruction of Mr. Bellavista's garden and made him very upset. To make it up to him, the young girl's father helped Mr. Bellavista create a new garden the following spring and ended up making a lifelong friend.

This book can be used in a variety of ways in all content areas, especially Science. Your students can really explore and research plants and learn more about growing vegetable gardens.

This month the entire school community will focus on one **Common Core Reading Standard in Literature, and one Instructional Shift in ELA, Shift 4: Text-Based Answers**, which asks students to engage in rich and rigorous evidence-based conversations about a text. As this book has a strong character whose actions affect the plot and lesson of the story, we thought that this would be a good text to support our work in Common Core Learning Standard 3 which states the following:

Kindergarten	First Grade	Second Grade	Third Grade	Fourth Grade	Fifth Grade
With prompting and support, identify characters, settings, and major events in a story.	Describe characters, settings, and major events in a story, using key details.	Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges.	Describe characters in a story (e.g. their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.	Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g. a character's thoughts, words, or actions).	Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g. how characters interact).

In continuing to push our student's thinking by asking higher level questions connected to Danielson's Component 3b, using Thinking Maps to organize our thoughts, and increase our academic vocabulary knowledge, the Teacher Leaders Team worked very hard to put together a list of examples of thinking map activities, higher order thinking questions, and vocabulary words to help support your work.



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Thinking Maps	Possible Activities
Circle Map	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Create a circle map of everything you know about planting/gardening. ➤ Create a circle map of small moments in your life.
Bubble Map	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Describe the young girl's father. ➤ Describe Mr. Bellavista.
Double Bubble Map	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Compare and contrast Mr. Bellavista and the young girl's father. ➤ Compare and contrast the young girl's father and one of his friends. ➤ Compare and contrast the neighborhood in the story to the neighborhood you live in.
Tree Map	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Create a tree map of the story elements. ➤ Create a tree map of the different things you can plant in a garden.
Brace Map	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Break apart a tomato plant.
Flow Map	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Put the story in sequential order from beginning to end. ➤ Create a flow map for the life cycle of a plant.
Multi-Flow Map	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Create a multi-flow map with the event "destroying Mr. Bellavista's garden". ➤ Create a multi-flow map with the event "helping Mr. Bellavista create a new garden".
Bridge Map	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Create a bridge map with the relating factor "changed (character's name) life". Throwing the tomatoes and destroying the garden changed the young girl's father's life in <i>The Summer My Father Was Ten</i> as making a mistake during the magic show changed Beatrice's life in <i>The Girl Who Never Made Mistakes</i>.

As we continue our school wide goal of growing our student's academic vocabulary knowledge, it is very important that our students gain a strong understanding of the meaning of the words below in different contexts, as well as be able to use them in speaking and in writing. Our hope is that throughout the month you reinforce the meaning of these words and have your students engaged in various activities around them.

<i>The Summer My Father Was Ten</i> Vocabulary Words			
Mulch	Vacant	Splattered	Weeds
Bouquets	Flannel	Trampled	Stammered
Trudged	Accent	Tenderly	Uprooted
Trowel			

Happy reading! We can't wait to hear about your small moment stories!

Sincerely,

Dr. Davidson, Mrs. LaPorte, and the Teacher Leaders Team