



Flower Talk

by Sara Levine

- Teacher's Guide
- Discussion Questions
- Activities

Common Core Standards-based for grades 1-4

Flower Talk

A Teacher's Guide

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Understand and explain how plants and animals depend on each other to survive.
- Give examples of ways in which flowers use color and smell to attract particular animals
- Identify the main idea and locate supporting details in this book

Background

This book is primarily about how flowers communicate with animals. They use color and scent to attract animals to drink their nectar, which leads to the animal spreading pollen to other flowers, allowing the plants to make seeds.

Vocabulary in the text

- *Pollen*
- *Pollinate*
- *Nectar*
- *Reek, stench, rotten*
- *Perfume*
- *Reliable*

Common Core ELA Standards:

- **First Grade**
 - ELA-LITERACY.RI.1.2 (Identify the main topic and retell key details of a text.)
 - ELA-LITERACY.RI.1.1 (Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.)
- **Second Grade**
 - ELA-LITERACY.RI.2.2 (Identify the main topic of a multi-paragraph text as well as the focus of specific paragraphs within the text.)
 - ELA-LITERACY.RI.2.1 (Ask and answer such questions as who, what, where, when, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.)
- **Third Grade**
 - ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.2 (Determine the main idea of a text; recount the key details and explain how they support the main idea.)
 - ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.1 (Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.)
- **Fourth Grade**
 - ELA-LITERACY.RI.4.2 (Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.)
 - ELA-LITERACY.RI.4.1 (Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.)

Discussion Questions

Before Reading:

- What do you already know about flowers?
- Why do you think some plants have flowers?
- Why do you think flowers come in different colors?
- Do all flowers smell good? Do some flowers smell bad?
- Where do you think seeds come from?
- Why are seeds important?

During the Read-aloud:

- What do you think plants might want to communicate to animals?
- What do animals help plants do?
- How do some flowers help moths and bats find them at night?
- Why do some flowers smell like rotten meat?
- What is special about green flowers?

After Reading:

- What was this book mostly about?
- How do flowers attract animals like bugs and birds? What are some examples?
- What was something new that you learned from this book?
- If you were going to plant a garden, which color flowers would you prefer to plant? Why?

Activity Ideas:

- Imagine that you are a butterfly or a bee. Design a garden of your favorite flowers.
- Do bees, bugs and birds really prefer certain colors? See for yourself! Visit an area with lots of flowers at a local garden, or your backyard if you have flowers there. Find a quiet place where you can sit and watch the flowers. Make a list of the types of animals you see visiting the flowers (bees, birds, butterflies, ladybugs, etc.) and next to the name of the animal, write the color of the flower it went to.