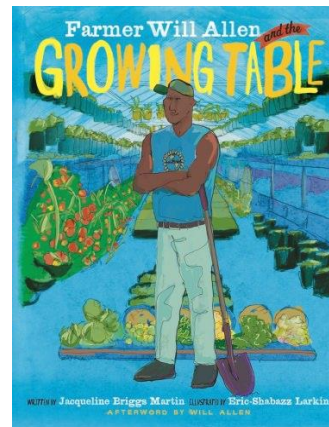




## A READ Guide for Families

### Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table

Author: Jacqueline Briggs Martin; Illustrator: Eric-Shabazz Larkin



## R Repeat The Book

Repeat the book 3 to 5 times over the course of several days. When we repeat books, we give children the opportunity to hear vocabulary words several times. When reading with your children, talk about the story problem, the important events, and the characters' thoughts and feelings.

To introduce this book when reading it for the first time, read the title along with the author's name and say, "This book is based on a true story about a man named Will Allen who decided to become a farmer to provide fresh fruits and vegetables for the people in his community. Let's read and find out how Will Allen became a farmer and what challenges he faced along the way." As you read, explain any words your child might not understand, like *scarce*, *greenhouse*, *continent*, *abandoned*, and *discovered*. Act out words like "tired and drooped," "pulling weeds," "huge table," and "vertical farm." Point to things in the illustrations to help support the vocabulary, such as "red wiggler worms," "vats of water and fish," and "scraps in big white buckets."

You can talk about why Will Allen wanted to grow vegetables in the city (some kids had never eaten fresh vegetables), how he might have felt when the red wiggler worms were dying (possibly sad or disappointed), or how he might have felt when he looked around and saw his many helpers on page 21 (possibly happy or hopeful). After reading the book a few times, children should be able to help you recall the main events. As you go through the book, instead of reading all the words, encourage your child to tell you what is happening on each page and how the characters feel about what is happening. After repeated readings, they become the storyteller!

## E Engage and Enjoy

Have fun! Use gestures, actions, and sounds to keep children engaged in the book. Enjoy acting out parts of the story and invite the children to make motions and sounds with you.

## A Ask Questions

Talking about the book is the most important thing! Ask a different "Why" or "How" question at the end of each reading. These questions encourage critical thinking and encourage children to talk, solve problems, and explore concepts. For example: Why did Farmer Will Allen teach so many people about farming and growing good food? How did Farmer Will Allen feel when so many others started their own farms?



## D Do More

Make the book come alive! When we do more with the book, we encourage children to make connections between the book and their world. Continue the fun of “Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table” by choosing some of the following activities to do with your child.

- Plant your own small garden
- Start a compost bin together as a family
- Visit your local community garden or farmers market
- Create a smoothie recipe using fruits and/or vegetables
- Find out more about Farmer Will Allen and his work at [www.growingpower.org](http://www.growingpower.org)

