

## Sylvia's Spinach Book by Katherine Pryor

**Subject(s):** English

**Grade(s):** Grades 3-4

**Key Stage(s):** 1

### Learning intention(s)

Students will develop their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills by engaging with the story *Sylvia's Spinach*, sharing ideas about healthy food and gardening, and creating short written responses about vegetables they could grow.

### Mapping to curriculum

Strand	Key Curriculum Outcomes	Application in Sylvia's Spinach Lesson
<b>Listening &amp; Speaking</b>	<p>-Engage in classroom conversations and contribute to discussions to extend and widen the interaction. -Listen to longer texts, extract and organize literal information and make inferences. - Communicate on familiar topics for a variety of audiences and purposes to a greater extent. -Use active listening strategies and respond using polite verbal language, intonation, and non- verbal cues to enhance meaning -Use skills and strategies of effective listeners to create meaning of oral texts from the speaker(s)' words and expressions, tone and body language.</p>	<p>Students listen to the Sylvia's Spinach read-aloud, discuss what Sylvia learned about growing food, share personal experiences with vegetables and gardens, and answer comprehension questions using complete, polite responses.</p>
<b>Reading &amp; Viewing</b>	<p>-Read with understanding a range of texts with accuracy, fluency and understanding. -Use features of a variety of texts and illustrations to extract, infer, organize information. -Engage in reading/viewing a wide range of texts for pleasure, to improve fluency and to develop a positive attitude towards reading. -Read and view texts to explore themes, settings, characters and events from different view-points. -Read longer texts drawing meaning from prior knowledge, context and content.</p>	<p>Students view and listen to the story read-aloud video, identify story events and the main idea (trying new things and growing food), and use the illustrations to understand how Sylvia's feelings and actions change through the story.</p>
<b>Writing &amp; Representing</b>	<p>-Create short personal and imaginative writings and representations for a variety of purposes and audiences. -Write and create representations of a wide range of information texts for a variety of purposes and audiences using sentences, text features and multimodal elements. -Creates texts using correct sentence-level grammar, word choice, spelling, punctuation and language devices encountered in texts read in class to enhance meaning.</p>	<p>Students complete worksheets by writing about a vegetable they would like to grow, listing steps to grow it, or writing simple recipes using spinach. They combine text and drawings to communicate meaning clearly.</p>

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# Lesson Instructions

## Resources

This story is about a girl called Sylvia and what happened when she grew food in her school garden.

## Materials required

- Powerpoint presentation for teachers
- Student worksheet – print 1 per student
- Link to the Youtube read-aloud of Sylvia’s Spinach storybook
- Each student’s own writing and colouring pencils.

## Key Vocabulary

**Spinach:** A leafy green vegetable that grows in the ground and can be eaten raw or cooked.

**Seed:** A small part of a plant that you put in soil to grow into a new plant.

**Soil:** The dirt where plants grow. It holds water and food for plants.

**Recipe:** A set of steps that show how to make a kind of food.

**Compost:** Old food and plants that break down to make healthy soil for growing new plants.

## Instructions

1. Use the powerpoint of the story in the provided materials.
2. Introduce students to the lesson. Pose the question ‘what do you think this lesson is going to be about?’
3. Explain what students will be doing during the lesson – what the learning intentions are.
4. Explain the new vocabulary and ask students to provide further explanations from their own experiences.
5. Play the youtube read-aloud of Sylvia’s Spinach story for the students.
6. Ask the students to discuss some interesting facts that they have learned from the story.
7. Explain the worksheet for the chosen activity to students.

## Activity 1: What vegetable would you like to grow in your school garden?

1. **Choose** a vegetable that you would like to grown in the school garden.
  - This can be one of the examples in the story or something different.
2. **Write down and draw** your chosen vegetable.
3. **Find out** how your vegetable grows.
  - List down the steps on how to grow your chosen vegetable.
  - Describe what do this plant need to help them grow?

## Activity 2: You can make lots of things with Spinach

1. **Find out** 5 different recipes of food that uses Spinach as an ingredient.
  - List down the names of the dishes.
  - Write down how to make these dishes.
2. **Draw** the dish that is your most favourite.
  - This can be a dish you like or a dish you would want to try.

### Activity 3: Identifying, understanding and using verbs

**Teacher says:** “In the story *Sylvia’s Spinach*, Sylvia does many things in the garden. What actions can you remember?” (Elicit words like *plant, water, grow, dig, pick, eat.*)

#### 1. Verb Match-Up (Worksheet or Pair Work)

Match the **verb** to the correct **description**.

Verb	Description
Plant	To put a seed in the soil.
Water	To give plants water so they can grow.
Grow	To become bigger or taller over time.
Pick	To take a vegetable or fruit from a plant when it is ready.
Eat	To put food in your mouth and swallow it.

#### 2. My Garden Verbs (Writing/Art Integration)

**Instructions:**

- Ask students to think about their vegetable from the worksheet (“What vegetable would you like to grow in your school garden?”).
- Write five sentences using verbs that show what they (or their plant) do.

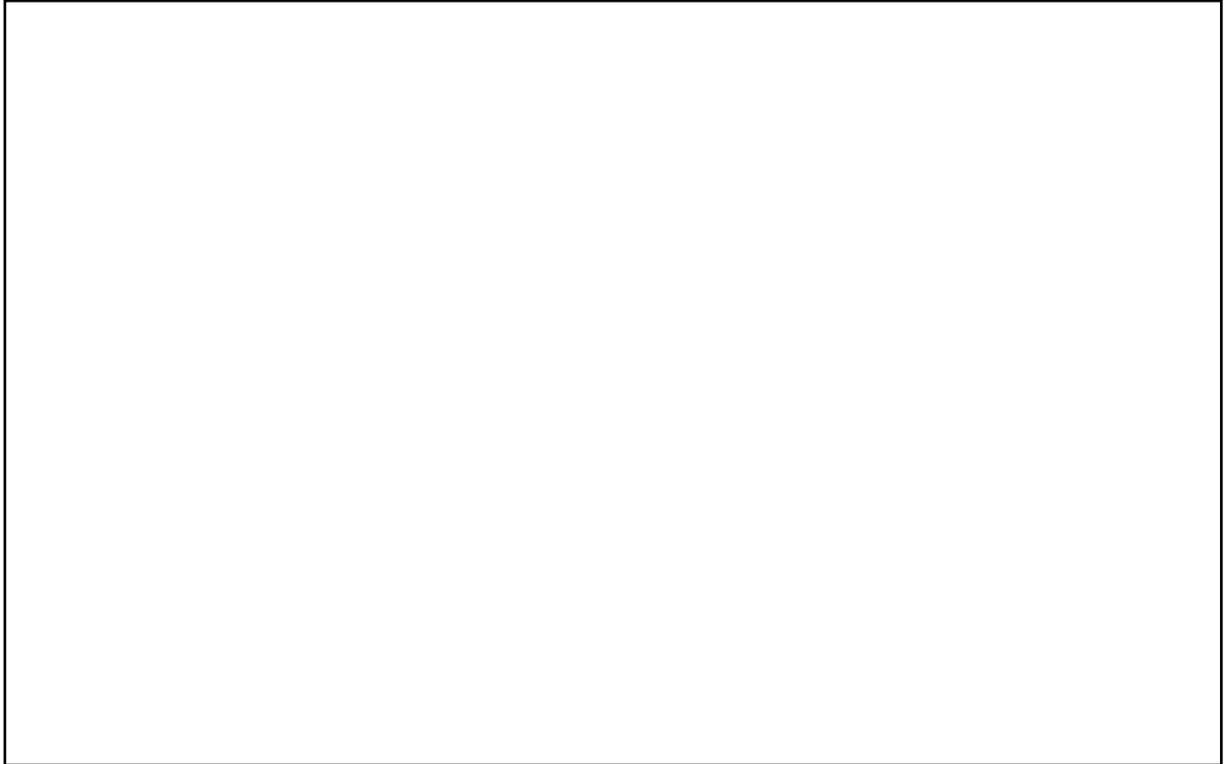
Example model:

- a. I *plant* my seed in the soil.
- b. I *water* my seed every day.
- c. The plant *grows* tall.
- d. I *pick* the spinach.
- e. I *eat* the spinach in a salad!

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## Teacher Supporting Resource:

**What vegetable would you like to grow in your school garden?** Write the name and draw it in the box below.



**How does this vegetable grow?** Find out how your vegetable grows and list down the steps here.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

## Teacher Supporting Resource:

**You can make lots of things with Spinach!**

Find 5 different recipes of dishes that use Spinach as an ingredient.

Dish Name: Recipe:

Which dish is your favourite? Draw how it looks below.