

A GARDEN IN THE CITY



Characters

Narrator 1
Narrator 2
Anne

Maria
Dad
Mrs. Hill

Setting

This reader's theater takes place in the country and the city.



Dad



Anne



Maria



Mrs. Hill

Act 1

Narrator 1: Anne is at Maria's house in the country.

Narrator 2: Anne loves the country. She gets to see things she doesn't see in the city where she lives.

Anne: "Look at all the birds in the trees!"

Maria: "Did you see all the flowers?"

Anne: "Everything looks so different from when I was here in the fall."

Maria: "Look! A butterfly landed on your arm."

Anne: "It's beautiful! Do you think it just hatched from its cocoon?"

Maria: "Anne, come over here. You've got to see our new vegetable and fruit garden."

Anne: "Wow, the tomatoes are so red and the lettuce is so green. I wonder why the vegetables we buy at the store never look this good."



Environment Lesson Plan

Objectives

- **Fluency:** Students will deliver oral presentations and read passages fluently, focusing on correct phrasing.
- **Content Area:** Students will learn the importance of protecting the environment.

Summary

Flowers and other forms of nature are everywhere, but especially abundant in the country. Anne soon realizes this when she visits her friend, Maria, in the country. But Anne longs to see the birds and flowers in the city, too. So, Anne takes action. With her neighbor, Mrs. Hill, she turns an empty lot into a beautiful garden.



Materials

- *A Garden in the City* script booklets
- *Environment Character Masks*

Introduce the Literature

Tell students that you are planning to create a garden in your backyard, where an old toolshed once stood, but you don't know how to start. Ask students for ideas about what to plant in the garden. In groups of two or three, allow students to draw a colorful garden idea on poster board and label it. After all students have contributed ideas for the garden, ask them if the poster looked better blank, or with beautiful plants, flowers, and animals. Explain that the class will read a book about a girl who wants to change a plain, empty lot by planting a garden. Read *City Green* by DyAnne DiSalvo Ryan to students. Ask students if the story made them think of other ideas to include in the garden. Add these ideas from the story to the poster board.



ELL Support

Allow ELL students to use a picture dictionary to label their pictures on the poster. Or allow students to draw a picture and label it in their first language. Provide assistance labeling the picture in English. As a class, repeat the name of the picture in the students' first languages and the name of the picture in English.

Involving All Students

Allow students without parts in the reading to create a background for the performance. Suggest that the background be simple, but colorful. A city garden might make a good backdrop.