



# A Marigold needs to grow!

*Watching the world at work and at play... Parent / Teacher Guide*

**MARIGOLD** is a story about seasons changing and flowers growing. The book is also about watching the world to see what else is happening at the same time.

*Ask children to find other stories in the book. Encourage them to make up stories that fit the pictures. Marigold started as a picture book with no words. I imagined several parallel plot lines going on through out the life cycle of the marigold and the cycle of the year.*

Many things can be in a story about a flower. Flowers and plants do not live or grow all alone. The flowers need some of the things in the book so they can grow. Some things in the story will not help the flower grow at all.

**Which things on this page do you think help flowers grow? Can you find them in the book?**

*There are no absolutely right and wrong answers here! Discuss reasons for answers*



*Some gardeners add egg shells to compost.*



*Do we really need this pot? What if we recycled a yogurt cup?*



*Does the child know the role of earthworm in the garden?*



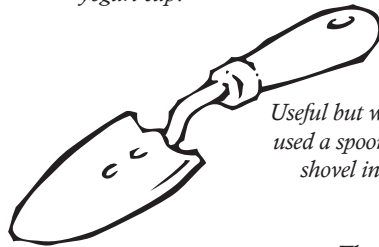
*The mouse in the story helped. Do real mice help?*



*Water & light are important but in what form?*



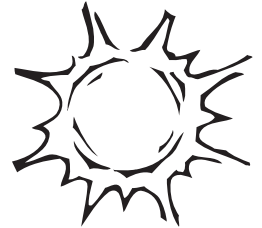
*The gloves, in this story, were important main characters but...*



*Useful but what if we used a spoon or a big shovel instead?*



*Does the child know that ladybugs eat bugs that eat plants?*



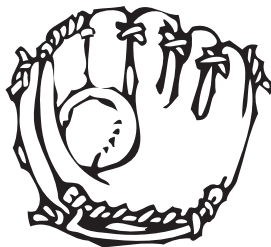
*The mitt is probably the only thing here with no useful purpose...*

*Decomposed leaves enrich soil.*



*Do we need this if it rains?*

*Is melted snow a major source of water?*



*A pencil can help us plan a garden.*



**Why do you think the artist put things in her book that the flower does not need? What would the book be like if she left all those things out?**

*Many stories use extra detail (both verbal and visual) to make the story more concrete and real. Details give clues about time, place and character and can set the mood of a story. Learning to see this in illustrations may help a child later in noticing details as they read.*