

Who is Marigold? (For Teacher/Parent)

A discussion guide for MARIGOLD by K.L.Darnell

☞ What is the MARIGOLD story about?

Witnessing the turning of the seasons and cycles of life

☞ A story usually has a beginning, a middle and an end. Why do you think the author starts *and* ends the story with snow?

I wanted to make the never-ending cycles obvious. I used winter because it's end is so clearly a beginning of spring and its beginning commonly seen as an end.

☞ Do you think the author wants us to feel the same about the snow in the beginning as we do at the end?

Anyone in the north knows the delight of those first winter snowflakes and the tiresome dread of more snow in early spring.

☞ What season is it when the author writes, "Days Long and rain Song"? Why are days long? Can you see who might be the singer?

It is summer and I am thinking of the summer solstice - the longest day of the year. Both frogs and crickets sing and the rain, itself is musical.

☞ At what point in the story is there the most action? Why do you think the illustrator showed so much happening? Are there unexpected things happening on this page?

I am thinking of the center spread with the marigold in full bloom, The lawn mower clipping, grass hoppers, hopping, worms wiggling and the garden gloves are playing catch. Everything is alive and moving - mostly at play; not working. Here is where I hope it is clear that the garden gloves act independently - without people - throughout the story.

☞ Many things in the first picture of the story are also on the last page of the story. Are they exactly the same as they were in the beginning? How are they different? Why?

Life cycles don't result in identical lives. The gloves are worn, the pot chipped. The collected seeds are now in a hand-labeled envelope and the mouse is now a mouse family (I suppose I should have introduced a second mouse along the way...).

☞ Do you think you could tell this same story without the words?

This book began as a wordless picture book The words came later...

☞ Who are the main characters in this story?

There are three: The garden gloves, the mouse and the marigold plant

☞ Who is Marigold?

Marigold is the flower, of course but you might notice, on the title page, that the new garden gloves are "Marigold" brand Extra Small work gloves. I also like to think that the mouse's name is Marigold, although there is no clue for this.

☞ Who does all the work in this story. Are there people in this story? Are they important?

The garden gloves and the mouse do all the work to give the marigold a good start. You only see a bit of people's hats a couple of times. They are not part of this story... except YOU are important to read, watch, and enjoy the show.



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Kate Darnell is the author & illustrator of MARIGOLD • Available from the [Book Baby Bookshop](#)

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