

Growing an Artist

Written and Illustrated By: John Parra

Synopsis: Today Juanito is accompanying his father who is in the landscaping business, and he takes his sketchbook along to draw anything that catches his eye, and gets to help his father plan an entire garden--and then help plant it.

Suggested Reading Date: Sep 15, 2023 - Sun, Oct 15, 2023 (Hispanic Heritage Month); April (National Landscape Architecture Month); Earth Day, April 15, 2024

Activity Descriptions:

- Watch *Zoo Jobs: Meet a Landscape Architect* from the Smithsonian and brainstorm other special places that need landscape architecture: <https://youtu.be/3tJkOjXqQQM>
- Read this book outside and/or brainstorm how you could make a "Reading Garden" in your outdoor space.
- Discuss what jobs are "important" and "unimportant." How should you show respect and kindness to people who do all kinds of jobs, whether we think they are important or not?
- Discuss why Alex ignores Juanito. Ask if they have ever ignored someone? How would they feel if they were Alex? How would they feel if they were Juanito?
- Multiple Activity ideas from Read Across America: <https://www.nea.org/professional-excellence/student-engagement/read-across-america/find-your-book/growing-artist-story-landscaper-and-his-son-cultivando-un-artista>

Related Websites:

- Author/Illustrator Website: <https://johnparraart.com/>
- Teaching Guide from the Publisher: https://d28hgpr8am2if.cloudfront.net/tagged_assets/10554475/9781534469273_cg_growing%20an%20artist%20guide.pdf
- Growing an Artist Book Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/CXu6jI0jXv4>

Text to Text Connections:

The Curious Garden by Peter Brown

The Gardener by Sarah Stewart and illustrated by David Small

A Green Place to Be: The Creation of Central Park by Ashley Benham Yazdani

Linus: The Little Yellow Pencil by Scott Magoon

My Papi Has a Motorcycle by Isabel Quintero and illustrated by Zeke Peña

Maybe Something Beautiful by F. Isabel Campoy and Theresa Howell and illustrated by Rafael López

Someone Builds the Dream by Lisa Wheeler and illustrated by Loren Long

Created By: Erin Quarterman