



Mrs. Spitzer's Garden

Edith Pattou , Tricia Tusa (Illustrator)

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Mrs. Spitzer is a wise teacher who knows many things. She knows about gardens. She knows about children. She knows how similar they are, and how both will flourish if tended lovingly.

There are many remarkable teachers like Mrs. Spitzer in the world, and Edith Pattou's simple, moving story along with Tricia Tusa's inspired, whimsical illustrations celebrate all they do, year after year, to help our children grow and blossom.

Mrs. Spitzer's Garden Details

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Author : Edith Pattou , Tricia Tusa (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Mrs. Spitzer's Garden for online ebook

Lojayn Ottman says

"At the end of summer, Mr. Merrick, the principal, walks down the hall to Mrs. Spitzer's room and gives her a packet of seeds" (np). Every year, Mrs. Spitzer is given her packet of seeds and others wait on to see her work her magic. Will she be able to tend to her garden no matter the circumstances?

There are a number of reasons why this book deserves 5 stars. At first glance, it seems like a good fit for introducing seasons to children (which it is). However, its real value is that it is a great fit for any person who will ever be put in a role of leadership. Mrs. Spitzer is a prime example of someone who knows what it takes to see growth and is willing to be there, no matter the weather.

I loved seeing the metaphors for the different types of students that will be encouraged through flowers. I will be honest, when I first went through this book, the art threw me off a little bit and I didn't fully understand the message. But going through it again allowed me to see that first glances aren't everything. That, like garden tending, things take time.

While this book is 15 years old, the message is one that doesn't diminish over time. I know that this would be a cherished book in any collection and I plan on having it in my own.

Sarah Jost says

Mrs. Spitzer's Garden is a great book for teachers. This book talks about a teacher that sees a resemblance between her students and the plants in a garden. Different plants in a garden grow at different paces, some grow in almost any setting, others need more care and attention. The teacher in the book tends to all of her plants and cares for them just like she does her students. She recognizes that they are all unique. I think this is a great book and it could be read to a class, helping students understand it is ok to be different.

Shawna says

I get it. The flower seeds are her students, and blah, blah, blah. It's just not written very well, and is a bit clunky.

The illustrations are nice, but a bit messy.

It's an OK story, but there are others out there that take this message and make it shine. This story doesn't shine, it just sort of sits there like a lost crayon under the teacher's desk.

Faith Tydings says

I love this book!

Jenna says

Love, love, love! Every teacher should have this book!

Joy Schmidt says

Mrs. Spitzer is a kindergarten teacher. This book uses garden seeds as a way to show what teachers do with, and for, children in their classrooms to protect them and nourish them while they are in her care. The illustrations are whimsical and beautiful as well. As an elementary teacher, I enjoyed reading this.

Mary Train says

This is really an adult story hidden in an illustrated picture book. The book was inspired by the author as a teacher gift and, to me, that is really the audience for this story.

Linda says

Excellent book, flowers in the garden as metaphor for growing students in an elementary classroom. Would make a great gift for any Elementary Teacher.

Keri says

Category: Grades K-3, Book #8

This book is a great read-aloud to use for students on the first day of school, or even on the last day of school. The book is about Mrs. Spitzer, who is a teacher. Every year her principal walks down to her room and gives her a packet of seeds. She plants the seeds and takes care of the plants all year. Some of the plants grow quickly, others take their time. All the flowers are an analogy for students in a teacher's classroom and how she takes care of her students all year. It is such a beautiful book! At the end, she has to let them go, but they continue to grow and get bigger and brighter! What a great tribute to teachers AND students! I typically read this book at the beginning of the year and then ask my students to draw a picture of what they would look like as a flower, and then we "plant" their drawings in my room, where they stay all year. And then at the end of the year, the I read the book again, and ask the kids to draw themselves as flowers again. Then the kids are asked to compare what they looked like at the beginning of the year and at the end and how they are alike and different.

Critic Review taken from Barnes and Noble.com:

"I love this book! Every teacher in the universe should have a copy." - Mem Fox (I thought this was a pretty reputable source, Mem Fox!)

Amanda Kearney says

Mrs. Spitzer's Garden by Edith Pattou is about a teacher who is starting a new school year. However, instead of students coming into her classroom on the first day, the principal gives her seeds to plant. She plants, waters, and watches the seeds grow into several different types of plants. Not one is the same. They all are different colors and sizes, and Mrs. Spitzer has to tend to each one a different way. In the end, it says Mrs. Spitzer's job is done. However, even though her job is done, the plants will keep growing on their own.

I loved this book! It was one of my favorite picture books. I would read this to my class if we were learning about symbolism. The plants symbolize all the different students of Mrs. Spitzer's classroom. Not one of them is the same, and they are all unique in their own way. This book teaches students that there is no one else like them. It will also reassure them that no matter who they are or where they come from, I will be there for them to help them grow as a person and as a student every day of the year.

Joanna says

Beautiful book about teaching. It was first recommended to me by a mentor teacher (thanks Maria Walther!), and then my first-grader brought it home as her library pick--she absolutely loved the story, especially as she realized that the seeds were really students. We talked about how everyone learns in their own way at their own pace and how different kids need different things from their teacher. We must have read it a dozen times that week. It would make a great gift for an elementary teacher.

Peacegal says

Charming story using a well-tended garden as a metaphor for a dedicated kindergarten teacher and her students.

Mariah says

Wonderful read-aloud for first or last day of school. Excellent book to boost morale and read to teachers when they need inspiration.

Laura Harrison says

How I love Mrs. Spitzer's Garden! Illustrated by the amazing Tricia Tusa, Mrs. Spitzer's Garden is a must have for classrooms around the world. Not to mention a great end of school year gift for a teacher or anyone taking care of a child or children. Children will appreciate the understanding Mrs. Spitzer has towards her students (and seedlings) as they grow and evolve through the year at their own pace. The faces of the flowers are whimsical and enchanting. A beautiful, unique book.

Jonah Zimmerman says

Genre- Realistic Fiction

Grade- 2-4

Unique- Practices with growth mindset and allows for students to expand understanding through reading. Also, many activities are available online that allow for extensions to writing.
