



## Picture books for kitchen gardens

This handy list of picture books can be used in many ways in your kitchen garden program: for a rainy day activity, to read at the start or end of a session, or to provide an individual activity for students seeking a quiet time. We've grouped the books into three groups: Garden, Kitchen and Nature. You can also search the PDF for particular book titles or categories. For categories, we've got garden, kitchen, nature, australian, indigenous and chickens. Let us know any other categories that would be useful! We've ordered the list with the most recently published books first, and we'll be adding to the list with more suggestions regularly.

### Garden

#### **How to Say Hello to a Worm (2022)**

by Kari Percival

The beautiful simplicity of a garden is depicted through illustrations and text presented as a series of questions and answers. Less of a traditional how-to and more of a how-to-appreciate.

Categories: #garden

#### **Garden Like a Nonno: The Italian Art of Growing Your Own Food (2021)**

by Jaclyn Crupi, illustrated by Felicita Sala

Whether you have a tiny balcony or a big backyard, you'll be growing your own fruit and veg in no time with a little guidance from the nonnos.

Categories: #garden #australian

#### **The Tiny Explorers (2021)**

by Kat Macleod

Join the Tiny Explorers on a treasure hunt through the garden, and all its colourful, graceful glory.

Categories: #garden #australian

#### **A Year in Fleurville: Recipes from balconies, rooftops, and gardens (2021)**

by Felicita Sala

In each garden, you'll find someone tending to their produce. Maria is picking asparagus, Ramon's mum is watering the cucumbers, and a gaggle of kids are eating cherries fresh from the tree.

Categories: #garden #australian

#### **Gwendolyn's Pet Garden (2021)**

by Anne Renaud, illustrated by Rashin Kheiriyeh

Gwendolyn longs for a pet. But her parents have other ideas, and instead they give her ... a box of dirt. It smells of swamp, Gwendolyn says - but her parents say it smells of possibilities. And once Gwendolyn gets savvy about seeds and soil, sun and shade, she finds they are right.

Categories: #garden

#### **Sweet Pea Summer (2021)**

by Hazel Mitchell

A young girl stays with her grandparents while her mother is in the hospital. Her Grandpa suggests she can take care of the sweet peas over the summer and enter them into the flower show. But no matter what she does, the flowers keep dying. Until finally, the mystery is solved - but will the sweet peas bloom in time for the show?

Categories: #garden

#### **In a Garden (2020)**

by Tim McCanna, illustrated by Aimee Sicuro

In a garden a seed grows to sprout to bud to flower, thriving in harmony with living creatures, especially insects.

Categories: #garden

#### **In My Garden (2020)**

by Charlotte Zolotow, illustrated by Philip C. Stead

A young girl describes what she loves most in her garden during each season.

Categories: #garden

#### **How Does My Garden Grow? (2020)**

by Gerda Muller

Sophie lives in the city, and her vegetables come from a supermarket. Then she goes to visit her grandparents in the countryside - and soon discovers how much there is to learn about how things grow!

Categories: #garden

#### **Thank You, Garden (2020)**

by Elizabeth Garton Scanlon, illustrated by Simone Shin

Illustrations and rhyming text explore a community garden and what grows there, from flowers and fruit to friendships.

Categories: #garden

### **Guinea Pigs Go Gardening (2020)**

by Kate Sheehy

Follow Bob and Ginger as they clear the garden of weeds, make compost to help their plants grow big, plant seeds, and finally harvest their crops, ready to make delicious treats like apple pie.

Categories: #garden

### **The Great Chicken Escape (2019)**

by Brendan Bolton, illustrated by Minerva Lamorgese White

Garden specialist and storyteller Brendan has run kitchen garden programs in Victorian primary schools for many years. In his debut children's book, he shares the true story of some runaway cheeky chooks.

Categories: #garden #australian #chickens

### **Grace's Mystery Seed (2019)**

by Juliet M Sampson, illustrated by Karen Erasmus

Polly likes these stripy seeds, Grace said. What are they from? Let's find out, said Mrs Marino. Grace and her neighbour plant a mystery seed. They wait and wait for ages. Then a little green shoot starts to grow . . . and grow . . . and grow . . . until, at last, Grace discovers the truth about her amazing mystery seed.

Categories: #garden #australian

### **I am a Seed that Grew the Tree (2018)**

by F Waters

A collection of nature poems, for each day of the year (northern hemisphere).

Categories: #garden

### **Emily Green's Garden (2018)**

by Penny Harrison, illustrated by Megan Forward

One day Emily Green decides she wants to bring the outside into her home. She visits the library to learn more about plants and soon she has created something magical. She just needs to share it with others.

Categories: #garden #australian

### **The Secret Sky Garden (2018)**

by Linda Sarah, illustrated by Fiona Lumbers

Funni loves the old, disused car park, and spends a lot of time there flying her kite and playing her recorder. But something is missing. Definitely. So Funni decides to create a garden in the neglected space. And slowly, not only do Funni's flowers bloom, but a very special friendship blossoms too.

Categories: #garden

### **The Vanderbeekers and the Hidden Garden (2018)**

by Karina Yan Glaser

While Isa is off at orchestra camp, Jessie, Oliver, Hyacinth and Laney are stuck at home with nothing to do but get on one another's nerves. But when catastrophe strikes their beloved upstairs neighbour, their sleepy summer transforms in an instant as the Vanderbeeker children band together to do what they do best: make a plan. They will create the most magical healing garden in all of Harlem.

Categories: #garden

### **The Extraordinary Gardener (2018)**

by Sam Boughton

Joe lives in a very grey world. Nothing special ever happens to him, but he does have a wild and wondrous imagination. Then, one day, Joe has the seed of an idea that will take his world from ordinary to extraordinary!

Categories: #garden

### **Scariest Thing in the Garden (2017)**

by Craig Smith, illustrated by Scott Tulloch

Categories: #garden

### **A Patch from Scratch (2016)**

by Megan Forward

A journal following a family as they plant a garden in the backyard.

Categories: #garden #australian

### **If You Plant a Seed (2015)**

by Kadir Nelson

While planting seeds in their garden, two animals learn the value of kindness.

Categories: #garden

### **Herbert Peabody and his Extraordinary Vegetable Patch (2014)**

by Bianca C Ross, illustrated by Tabitha Emma Bray

Herbert's big vegetable patch can entice anyone to see the magic of growing things – and perhaps even save the local bakery too.

Categories: #garden #australian

### **Lola Plants a Garden (2014)**

by Anna McQuinn, illustrated by Rosalind Beardshaw

Lola plants a flower garden with her parents' help, and watches it grow.

Categories: #garden

### **How Did That Get in My Lunchbox? (2013)**

by Chris Butterworth, illustrated by Lucia Gaggiotti

One of the best parts of a young child's day is opening a lunchbox and diving in. But how did that delicious food get there? From planting wheat to mixing dough, climbing trees to machine-squeezing fruit, picking cocoa pods to stirring a vat of melted bliss.

Categories: #garden #kitchen

### **Grandpa's Garden (2012)**

by Stella Fry, illustrated by Sheila Moxley

Billy helps his grandpa dig the hard ground in early spring, sow rows of seeds, and keep them watered and safe from slugs. A beautiful portrayal of a grandparent-child relationship,

Kitchen garden prompts: Includes Grandpa's tips for children to grow their own vegetables.

Categories: #garden

### **And Then It's Spring (2012)**

by Juliet M Fogliano, illustrated by Erin E Stead

Simple text reveals the anticipation of a boy who, having planted seeds while everything around is brown, fears that something has gone wrong until, at last, the world turns green.

Categories: #garden

### **The Enormous Turnip (2011)**

by Cristiana Cerretti

A turnip grows so large no one can harvest it!  
Kitchen garden prompts: Harvest and seasons – teamwork, harvesting techniques and different parts of plants.

Categories: #garden

### **All Through the Year (2010)**

by Jane Godwin, illustrated by Anna Walker

Journey through the Australian seasons in this personal almanac of a little girl and her family, opening a window onto each month of her year. Specifically written for Victorians.

Categories: #garden #australian

### **Compost Stew: An A-Z recipe for the earth (2010)**

by Mary McKenna Siddels, illustrated by Ashley Wolff  
From apple cores to zinnia heads, readers will discover the best ingredients for a successful compost pile in this fun picture book perfect for Earth Day.

Kitchen garden prompts: What goes into compost and how do we feed the earth? Includes a recipe for compost with information about each ingredient.

Categories: #garden

### **Grandma's Gloves (2010)**

by Cecil Castellucci, illustrated by Julia Denos

When her grandmother, a devoted gardener, dies, a little girl inherits her gardening gloves and feels closer to her memory.

Kitchen garden prompts: Introduce safety in the garden; themes of connecting to the community.

Categories: #garden

### **In Wibbly's Garden (2009)**

by Mick Inkpen

An adventure set in a garden, reminiscent of Jack and the Beanstalk.

Categories: #garden

### **Isabella's Garden (2009)**

by Glenda Millard

As Isabella builds her garden, the seasons turn in this lovely cycle-of-life tale.

Categories: #garden #australian

### **Amelia Ellicott's Garden (2009)**

by Liliana Stafford, illustrated by Stephen Michael King  
Amelia Ellicott lives with her cat Mustafah next door to a block of flats. She is proud of her garden and her chickens, but she has no-one to share them with, until one day a storm destroys it all and Amelia discovers the value of friendship.

Categories: #garden #australian

### **A Seed is Sleepy (2007)**

by Dianna Hutts Aston, illustrated by Sylvia Long

What happens when a seed goes to sleep and why do seeds need periods of dormancy?

Kitchen garden prompts: This tale links to the cycles of life we see in the seasons in the garden.

Categories: #garden

### **Whacko the Chook (2007)**

by Mark Svendsen and Ben Redlich

Whacko the Chook is feeling sad, and decides she needs a friend – so she sets out to find one. But the other chooks are busy with their own lives. Each rejection makes her sadder and sadder, until finally she gives in to the urge to go and hide in a nice dark place. But in the nesting box she discovers that her urge for a friend is also a deeper urge to lay an egg.

Kitchen garden prompts: If your school has chooks, try this story about a chicken looking for a friend.

Categories: #garden #australian #chickens

### **A Fruit is a Suitcase for Seeds (2002)**

by Jean Richards

This simple picture book provides an illustrated introduction to seeds, their purpose and how they grow.

Categories: #garden

### **The Potato People (2002)**

by Pamela Allen

Every Friday, Jack spends the day with his grandma.

They romp roly-poly on the ground, they read stories and they eat cake. Then, one cold and rainy Friday, they make the potato people . . .

Kitchen garden prompts: A fun way to start thinking about cycles of life, decay, seed sprouting and regeneration.

Categories: #garden #kitchen #australian

### **My First Garden (2000)**

by Tomek Bogacki

Inspired by hearing that a garden used to grow in the yard in front of his house, a boy recreates it with loving care.

Kitchen garden prompts: Families and generations, cycles of time and seasons, growth in spite of adversity.

Categories: #garden

### **Scarlette Beane (1999)**

by Karen Wallace, illustrated by Jon Berkeley

Magic in the garden as germination becomes gigantic!

Categories: #garden

### **The Reasons for a Flower (1999)**

by Ruth Heller

The reason for a flower is to manufacture seeds, but Ruth Heller shares a lot more about parts of plants and their functions in her trademark rhythmic style.

Kitchen garden prompts: Life cycle of a plant; seeds and germination.

Categories: #garden

### **Too Many Pumpkins (1996)**

by Linda White and Megan Lloyd

Rebecca Estelle has hated pumpkins ever since she was a girl when pumpkins were often the only food her family had. When an enormous pumpkin falls off a truck and smashes in her yard, she shovels dirt over the pieces and forgets about them. But those slimy pumpkin smithereens sprout up in autumn, and Rebecca Estelle finds a sea of pumpkins in her garden.

Kitchen garden prompts: Some themes to think about: scarcity and surplus.

Categories: #garden

## **The Story of Rosy Dock (1995)**

by Jeannie Baker

The Australian desert: for thousands of years the only changes here were made by the wind, the willy-willies and sometimes the rain. Then a hundred years ago people from Europe settled in the desert and planted seeds from the other side of the world. The Story of Rosy Dock is the story of one of the settlers who followed them, and her garden in the wilderness, a garden that is beautiful – but with an unexpected flowering.

Kitchen garden prompts: Explore seeds and settlement, landscape change and introduced species in Australia.

Categories: #garden

## **The Reasons for Seasons (1995)**

by Gail Gibbons

Cold winters, hot summers – year after year the seasons repeat themselves. But what causes them? Why is there winter in the southern hemisphere at the same time there is summer in the northern hemisphere? In summertime, why is it still light out in the evening? With simple language appropriate for young readers.

Categories: #garden

## **From Seed to Plant (1991)**

by Gail Gibbons

Introduces young readers to the processes of pollination, seed formation, and germination. Important vocabulary is reinforced with accessible explanation and colorful, clear diagrams showing the parts of plants, the wide variety of seeds, and how they grow.

Kitchen garden prompts: Seed germination; life cycle of a plant.

Categories: #garden

## **How Summer Came to Canada: A Legend (1979)**

by William Toye, illustrated by Elizabeth Cleaver

A classic legend about the changing seasons.

Categories: #garden

## **Dragonsong (1976)**

by Anne McCaffrey

Fifteen-year-old Menolly allies with magnificent dragons in the first book in the Harper Hall trilogy, set within science fiction legend Anne McCaffrey's beloved and bestselling Dragonriders of Pern series.

Kitchen garden prompts: A major plot device in this fantasy for young adults is 'thread', the rain that burns all living things. How would you grow a garden in such a world?

Categories: #garden

## **Blueberries for Sal (1976)**

by Robert McCloskey

The story features a little girl, Sal, and her mother as they go and pick blueberries for winter – and a bear cub and his mother as they go and eat berries for winter from the other side of the same hill.

Categories: #garden

## **Jack and the Beanstalk (1975)**

by Joseph Jacobs

Jack, a poor country boy, trades the family cow for a handful of magic beans, which grow into an enormous beanstalk reaching up into the clouds. Jack climbs the beanstalk and finds himself in the castle of an unfriendly giant.

Categories: #garden

## **Under the Cherry Blossom Tree (1974)**

by Allen Say

A cherry stone falls into the landlord's head, and a tree grows ...

Kitchen garden prompts: Themes include Chinese myths and traditional tales, germination and positive change.

Categories: #garden

## **The Very Hungry Caterpillar (1969)**

by Eric Carle

One sunny Sunday, the caterpillar was hatched out of a tiny egg. He was very hungry. On Monday, he ate through one apple; on Tuesday, he ate through three plums – and still he was hungry. When full at last, he made a cocoon around himself and went to sleep, to wake up a few weeks later wonderfully transformed into a butterfly.

Kitchen garden prompts: This classic is perfect to help spark investigations into pests and beneficial insects, insect evidence in our garden, metamorphosis and life cycles of insects.

Categories: #garden

## **Rosie's Walk (1968)**

by Pat Hutchins

Rosie the hen is going for a walk, but she'd better watch out – there's a very sneaky fox hot on her tail feathers. Children love the humour of this near-wordless story.

Categories: #garden

## **The 23 Tales (a.k.a Tale of Peter Rabbit, Squirrel Nutkin, etc.) (1901-1930)**

by Beatrix Potter

The Tale of Peter Rabbit follows mischievous and disobedient young Peter Rabbit as he gets into, and is chased around, the garden of Mr. McGregor. He escapes and returns home to his mother, who puts him to bed after offering him chamomile tea.

Kitchen garden prompts: Features a wide array of animals, food and gardens.

Categories: #garden #kitchen

## **Let's Eat Weeds! A Kid's Guide to Foraging (2021)**

by Adam Grubb and Annie Raser-Rowland, illustrated by Evie Barrow

Weeds are not just pesky plants to toss away! From salads to main dishes, edible weeds can be delicious. Find out how to identify them, where and when to find them, and how to cook them.

Categories: #kitchen #australian

## **Kalamata's Kitchen (2021)**

by Thomas Thomas, illustrated by Jo Kosmides Edwards  
Tomorrow is Kalamata's first day at a new school, and she's nervous! What if the kids aren't friendly? Or worse, what if they don't like alligators!? Luckily, all the magic required for her journey is right in her own kitchen.

Categories: #kitchen

## **Dumplings for Lili (2021)**

by Melissa Iwai

Lili loves to cook little dumplings called baos with her grandmother, but when cabbage is needed, Lili races up and down the stairs of her grandmother's apartment building to find the ingredient and help the other grandmothers borrow ingredients for different dumplings, from Jamaican meat patties and Italian ravioli to Lebanese fatayer and more.

Categories: #kitchen

## **The Thank You Dish (2020)**

by Trace Balla

A story about gratitude and the fun of eating locally.

Categories: #kitchen #australian

## **Our Little Kitchen (2020)**

by Jillian Tamaki, illustrated by Jeanette Illidge

A crew of resourceful neighbors come together to prepare a meal for their community. With a garden full of produce, a joyfully chaotic kitchen, and a friendly meal shared at the table.

Kitchen garden prompts: Includes a recipe and an author's note about the volunteering experience that inspired the book.

Categories: #kitchen

## **Rosa's Big Pizza Experiment (2020)**

by Jessica Spanyol

Follow Rosa and her friends as they prepare pizzas. Each step involves using a skill, from measuring to observation.

Categories: #kitchen

## **Spaghetti Hunters (2020)**

by Morag Hood

What exactly do you bring to a Spaghetti Hunt? A spade, a fishing rod, a jar of peanut butter, cutlery and some binoculars, obviously. Until Duck consults a recipe book and armed with flour, eggs and a pasta maker, sets about making his own spaghetti.

Kitchen garden prompts: Encourages home-cooking, teaching children about where food really comes from.

Categories: #kitchen

## **Amy Wu and the Perfect Bao (2019)**

by Kat Zhang, illustrated by Charlene Chua

Amy is determined to make a perfect dumpling like her parents and grandmother do, but hers are always too empty, too full, or not pinched together properly.

Categories: #kitchen

## **How to Feed Your Parents (2018)**

by Ryan Miller, illustrated by Hatem Aly

Matilda Macaroni loves to try new foods, whether it's her grandma's jambalaya or sushi at a sleepover. But in this picture book, it's finicky mom and dad—not the child—who eat only pizza with pepperoni (delivered), burgers from a bag, or noodles from a box. Matilda secretly sets out to learn how to cook, satisfy her hunger for something more . . . and expand her parents' palates, too.

Categories: #kitchen

## **Great Bunny Bakes (2018)**

by Ellie Snowdon

Aprons on, recipes at the ready - it's time for the biggest, bestest, bunniest baking competition. Only - who is this strangely dressed contestant?! Quentin is a wolf with a very unusual hobby. He loves to bake! So when he accidentally receives an invitation to take part in a Great Bunny Baking competition he'll do anything to enter.

Categories: #kitchen

## **Lights, Camera, Cook! (Next Best Junior Chef book 1) (2017)**

by Charise Merciel Harper

Follows Tate, Rae, Caroline, and Oliver, ages nine to eleven, both on and off-camera as they compete in a televised cooking competition. Includes cooking tips.

Categories: #kitchen

## **Chapatti Moon (2017)**

by Pippa Goodhart, illustrated by Lizzie Finlay

Mrs Kapoor and a whole host of animals and friends give chase to a cheeky chapatti in this hilarious modern take on the runaway pancake story. Follow the trail of the chapatti as it bounces and bursts through the book - where will its adventure end?

Categories: #kitchen

## **Wolfie's Secret (2017)**

by Nicola Senior

Wolfie was no ordinary wolf. He was a wolf with a difference. He had a special, secret talent ...

Categories: #kitchen

## **Sage Cookson's Sweet Escape (Sage Cookson book 1) (2016)**

by Sally Murphy, illustrated by Celese Hulme

Series of books following the adventurous life of Sage Cookson. Sage isn't your average 10-year-old. Her parents are television chefs who travel around Australia and the world meeting lots of different people, sampling the food and learning new cooking techniques.

Kitchen garden prompts: Includes a recipe that kids can make themselves.

Categories: #kitchen #australian

### **A Curry for Murray (2015)**

by Kate Hunter, illustrated by Lucia Masciullo  
Molly made ... slippery duck pasta for her brother's headmaster, spit-roasted geese for the local police, and Singapore noodles for the Montague poodles! Before long, Molly's making meals for people in her street, suburb and then people in other cities and even other countries. But when an accident means Molly can't cook, it's time for Molly to accept kindness in return from her neighbours.

Categories: #kitchen

### **Jacko and the Beanstalk (2013)**

by Kel Richards  
Jacko is a kangaroo and the giant is a crocodile, and they make their money from broad bean pickles.

Categories: #kitchen #australian

### **Piggies in the Kitchen (2011)**

by Michelle Meadows, illustrated by Ard Hoyt  
Piggies make a surprise treat for their mama while she is out of the house.

Categories: #kitchen

### **Thai-riffic (2010)**

by Tom Phommavanh  
Albert (Lengy) Lengviriyakul, is fed up with being Thai. His parents own a Thai restaurant with the cheesy name of Thai-riffic! and Lengy is sick of being his father's curry guinea pig, longing to just eat pizza. But when his best friend decides to become Thai for a day for a school project, Lengy stubbornly comes to the realisation that there may just be some pretty cool things about his culture.

Categories: #kitchen

### **Pip in the Grand Hotel (2009)**

by Johannes Hucke and Daniel Muller  
An exciting chase through an old-style European hotel – with great drawings of large kitchens and pantries.

Categories: #kitchen

### **Anansi and the Pot of Beans (2006)**

by Bobby Norfolk and Sherry Norfolk  
Anansi goes to help his grandmother. Upon arrival he finds her steaming, hot pot of beans, which he can't resist. This is where the fun begins. This charming story is entertaining while also teaching important life lessons about responsibility and trust.

Categories: #kitchen

### **Thelonius Monster's Sky-High Fly Pie (2006)**

by Judy Sierra and Edward Koren  
Judy Sierra's funny read-aloud romp presents a monster that children will love as he makes a goo-filled crust, lures hundreds and thousands of succulent flies into it, and invites his disgusting-ist friends and relations to a gala fly-pie party.

Kitchen garden prompts: Themes include taste, sharing food with your friends and being a good host.

Categories: #kitchen

### **Fairy Tale Feasts: a Literary Cookbook for Young Readers and Eaters (2006)**

by Jane Yolen and Heidi E Stemple, illustrated by Philippe Beha

Jane Yolen is a master at retelling familiar fairy tales for modern kids. Here, each story is paired with a recipe – lots of additional information about ingredients, stories and the origins of folklore.

Categories: #kitchen

### **Pino and the Signora's Pasta (2005)**

by Janet Pederson  
A stray cat, Pino, learns that the food he is given is served with love. Exploring Rome, this book includes some Italian vocabulary, images of art and architecture and Italian life.

Categories: #kitchen

### **Let's Eat: What Children Eat from Around the World (2004)**

by Beatrice Hollyer  
Explores the relationship between food and family for five children, from Mexico, India, Thailand, South Africa and France. Includes recipes.

Categories: #kitchen

### **Let's Eat! (2004)**

by Ana Zamorano and Julie Vivas  
Visit a Spanish family, see a variety of Spanish traditional dishes and learn some Spanish vocabulary.

Categories: #kitchen

### **Granny Torelli Makes Soup (2003)**

by Sharon Creech  
Food and friendship mingle in a story about generations and forgiveness. Includes 'secret' recipes.

Categories: #kitchen

### **Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events (2001)**

by Daniel Handler  
The series follows the unfortunate lives of the three Baudelaire orphans, trying to survive the pursuit of their nemesis Count Olaf. The first novel features the children cooking pasta puttanesca and in later books one of the orphans develops a skill for cooking.

Categories: #kitchen

### **Sun Bread (2001)**

by Elisa Kleven  
A baker brightens winter with his huge, round sun bread – and even convinces the real sun to come out of hiding. Kitchen garden prompts: A good read when students are learning how to make yeast breads.

Categories: #kitchen

### **Pancakes, Pancakes! (1998)**

by Eric Carle  
The barnyard rooster crows and Jack wakes up hungry. What does he want for breakfast? A big pancake, but first, Jack's mother needs flour from the mill, an egg from the black hen, milk from the spotted cow, butter churned from fresh cream, and firewood for the stove. Will Jack ever get his pancake?

Categories: #kitchen

**Mama Provi and the Pot of Rice (1997)**

by Sylvia Rosa-Casanova

Set in Puerto Rico, Grandma Provi takes her famous arroz con pollo to her granddaughter and enjoys a culinary journey on the way.

Categories: #kitchen

**Stone Soup (1987)**

by Tony Ross

Wily chicken convinces hungry wolf to try her special soup.

Categories: #kitchen

**Mrs Bottle Burps (1983)**

by Robyn Archer and Victoria Roberts

Mrs Bottle grows her own food and enjoys a fantastic feast – but finds her tummy needs a burp to settle and she just can't do it ...

Categories: #kitchen #australian

**Strega Nona (1975)**

by Tomie dePaola

Big Anthony causes the title character's magic pasta pot to create so much pasta that it nearly floods and buries a town.

Categories: #kitchen

**In the Night Kitchen (1970)**

by Maurice Sendak

A dream fantasy of surreal proportions: Mickey nearly gets baked into the morning cake.

Categories: #kitchen

**The Asterix and Obelix series (1965-2004)**

by Rene Goscinny and Albert Uderzo

Magic potions and mighty feasts.

Categories: #kitchen

**The Finn Family Moomintroll series (1945-1970)**

by Tove Jansson

In which the Moomins often go on picnics, sometimes encounter magical food, and have a huge and occasionally unruly garden.

Categories: #kitchen #garden

**The Magic Pudding (1918)**

by Norman Lindsay

Discovered in strange circumstances, Albert is a magic pudding who changes from steak and kidney to jam roll and apple dumpling in seconds. Gravy-voiced and gruff, Albert is constantly being nibbled at by his owners but never shows the damage.

Kitchen garden prompts: Would you eat a pudding that complains and runs away?

Categories: #kitchen #australian

## Nature

**A Bear's Guide to Beekeeping (2022)**

by Pip Cornell, illustrated by Alex G Griffiths

Are you a bear considering keeping your very own bees? With invaluable tips such as how to make a tiny crown for your queen bee, learn how to care for your new buzzy friends in easy-to-follow steps - but don't forget to absolutely never hug the bees.

Categories: #nature

**The Good Times at Pelican Rise: Save the Joeys (2021)**

by Samone Amba, illustrated by Lucy Zhang

After the worst summer of bushfires ever, Sunday Moon is determined to use her time in after-school care to make a difference: OUT with headstand competitions and IN with knitting pouches for injured wildlife!

Categories: #nature #australian

**The River (2021)**

by Sally Morgan, illustrated by Johnny Warrkatja Malibirr

See green ants crawling and hear frogs croaking in this sensory celebration of the life of a river.

Categories: #nature #australian #indigenous

**The First Scientists: Deadly Inventions and Innovations from Australia's First Peoples (2021)**

by Corey Tutt, illustrated by Blak Douglas

Learn from the first scientists who passed on the lessons of the land, sea and sky to the future scientists of today through stories, song and dance. Many of their lessons are shared in this book.

Categories: #nature #australian #indigenous

**The Amazing Case of Dr Ward (2021)**

by Jackie Kerin, illustrated by Tull Suwannakit

When you peel a banana, or bite into a pear, when you smell a rose, pop a fuchsia bud or scrape your knee climbing an old pine tree, do you ever wonder how those plants came to this country? Let me tell you of the amazing case of Dr Ward.

Categories: #nature #australian

**Landing with Wings (2020)**

by Trace Balla

A young girl's nature diary is a joyful journey of discovery: Miri's been on the move and now she's finding her feet, her freedom, her community and her home, treading lightly all the way.

Categories: #nature #australian

## **The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Ugly Animals (2019)**

by Sami Bayly

Marvel as you enter the fascinating hidden world of ugly animals in this celebration of the animal kingdom's most unusual species. Author and illustrator Sami Bayly, whose books encourage awareness of flora and fauna and inspire care for their conservation, was highly commended in the 2021 Community Educator of the Year Awards.

Categories: #nature #australian

## **Backyard (2018)**

by Ananda Braxton-Smith, illustrated by Elizabeth Newcomb

White gum rustle, tawny frog mouths still as wood, dragonflies swoop. A child stands on her back step at dusk and surveys her backyard.

Categories: #nature

## **Flowers Are Calling (2015)**

by Rita Gray, illustrated by Kenard Pak

Rhyming text explores the wonders of natural cooperation between flowers and the animals and insects of the forest.

Categories: #nature

## **The Thirsty Flowers (2013)**

by Tony Wilson and Julie Knoblock

During the drought, flowers will flop – this is a tale of courage and friendship in hard times.

Categories: #nature #australian

## **The Sugarbag (2012)**

by Nola Turner-Jensen, illustrated by Dub Leffler

An adventure story of two young brothers, Jimmy and Max, who are on their way to visit their grandfather. On the way, they encounter a tiny native bee and hope it will lead them to some delicious sugarbag.

Categories: #nature #australian #indigenous

## **My Country (2011)**

by Ezekiel Kwaymullina and Sally Morgan

A story celebrating country. A gorgeous picture book in simple, lyrical prose and vibrant colour.

Kitchen garden prompts: Respect for country.

Categories: #nature #australian #indigenous

## **Why I Love Australia (2010)**

by Bronwyn Bancroft

Bronwyn Bancroft uses both images and words to explore the awe-inspiring beauty of the Australian continent, and to express the depth of her feelings for it.

Kitchen garden prompts: A celebration of country, exploring the dramatic beauty of Australian landscapes.

What do you love about Australia? What's the most amazing thing you've seen in nature?

Categories: #nature #australian

## **Underground Animals (2010)**

by Maria Racanelli

From burrowers to cave-dwellers, a whole secret world will be uncovered. Earthworms, moles, ants, badgers, desert tortoises and more are all waiting to give readers a tour of their earthy homes.

Categories: #nature

## **Uno's Garden (2006)**

by Graeme Base

When Uno arrives in the forest one beautiful day, there are many fascinating and extraordinary animals there to greet him. And one entirely unexceptional Snortlepig.

Kitchen garden prompts: This award-winning tale of conservation awareness (with number games and maths) is ideal for any kitchen garden.

Categories: #nature #australian

## **Zen Shorts (2005)**

by John J Muth

A large panda arrives; explores patience, quietude in nature and ethics.

Categories: #nature

## **Walking with the Seasons in Kakadu (2005)**

by Diane Lucas and Ken Searle

This sumptuous book invites us to closely observe the birds, plants and animals that inhabit the unique environment of Kakadu, through an understanding of the six Aboriginal seasons and their characteristics.

Categories: #nature #australian #indigenous

## **The Waterhole (2001)**

by Graeme Base

The Waterhole is an ingenious fusion of counting book, puzzle book, storybook and art book – an exhilarating journey of discovery, from the plains of Africa and the jungles of the Amazon to the woodlands of North America and the deserts of outback Australia.

Kitchen garden prompts: Water as a necessity of life, cycles, drought, environments, endangered species.

Categories: #nature #australian

## **Skellig (1998)**

by David Almond

When a move to a new house coincides with his baby sister's illness, Michael's world seems suddenly lonely and uncertain. Then, exploring a ramshackle garage with new-found friend Mina, he finds something magical. The creature is ill-mannered, with questionable personal hygiene, but persevering in their kindness towards Skellig, Michael and Mina find a bond forms between them that will change their lives forever.

Kitchen garden prompts: What does Skellig love to eat? Does this tell us anything about this enigmatic character?

Categories: #nature

## **Enchantment in the Garden (1996)**

by Shirley Hughes

Touches on themes of dreams, myths of nature and spirits of place, Italy and traces of Roman culture, Roman deities and history.

Categories: #nature



### **Owl Babies (1992)**

by Martin Waddell and Patrick Benson

This is the story of three baby owls who wake up one night in their hole in the tree to find that their mother has gone, so they sit on the branch and wait, wondering when she will return. At last she does, and they all bounce up and down with joy, welcoming her home.

Kitchen garden prompts: Some themes to think about: gardens at night, birds and owls, nests and learning to fly.  
Categories: #nature

### **The Orphan Boy (1990)**

by Tololwa Mollel and Paul Morin

An African tale about a young shepherd and a mystical land where there is no drought.

Categories: #nature

### **The Lorax (1971)**

by Dr Seuss

Chronicles the plight of the environment. The Lorax speaks for the trees and confronts the Once-ler, who causes environmental destruction.

Kitchen garden prompts: This is a classic. Rhyming poetry, green themes – give it a try with your students.  
Categories: #nature

### **James and the Giant Peach (1961)**

by Roald Dahl

James Henry Trotter lives with his two horrid aunts, Spiker and Sponge. He hasn't got a single friend in the whole wide world. That is, not until he meets the Old Green Grasshopper and the rest of the insects aboard a giant, magical peach.

Categories: #nature