BOOK LEAGUE CLASSROOM

Miss Rumphius

Written and illustrated by Barbara Cooney · Grades PreK to 2

WATCH THE READ ALOUD

One person's small act, like planting flowers, can leave a whole place lovelier for everyone.

BEFORE YOU READ

Ask. What is something that makes the world more beautiful?

Listen for. As we read, listen for the three things Alice promises to do.

TALK ABOUT IT

1. What three things does Alice plan to do in her life? Remembering
2. How does Miss Rumphius get the idea to plant lupines everywhere? Understanding
3. What is one small thing you could do to make your home, school or neighborhood more beautiful? Applying
4. How do the wind and the birds help Miss Rumphius find her answer? Analyzing
5. Some people called her a crazy old lady while she scattered seeds. Were they right? Explain your thinking. Evaluating
6. Make a plan for your own three things. Where will you go, where will you live and how will you make the world more beautiful? Creating

LOOK CLOSER

Compare the hillside before Miss Rumphius scatters her seeds with the same countryside the next spring. What has changed, and where do you see flowers?

WORDS TO KNOW

lupine a tall wildflower that blooms in blue, purple and pink.

bushel a large measure used for seeds or crops.

conservatory a glass building where plants are grown.

headlands high points of land that reach out into the sea.

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Miss Rumphius

WRITE ABOUT IT

Write about one way you will make the world more beautiful.

PreK and K: draw a place covered in flowers you planted, then tell an adult where it is.

Grade 2: the story is told by Alice's great niece. Retell the seed planting summer the way Miss Rumphius herself would tell it.

MAKE IT: SEEDS FOR A MORE BEAUTIFUL WORLD

You need. Wildflower seeds suited to your area, small pots or a patch of ground, soil, water.

1. Talk about how Miss Rumphius spread her seeds.
2. Plant seeds in pots or in a spot where you have permission.
3. Make a sign that tells what was planted and why.
4. Check on the plants each week and draw what you see.

THE STORY IN BRIEF

A girl tells the story of her great aunt Alice, the Lupine Lady. As a child in a city by the sea, Alice tells her grandfather she will travel to faraway places and then live beside the sea. He tells her there is a third thing she must do as well: leave the world lovelier than she found it. Alice grows up, works in a library and becomes Miss Rumphius. She travels to a tropical island, mountains, jungles and deserts, then settles by the sea after hurting her back. One spring she finds that seeds from her garden have spread over the hill. She orders bushels of lupine seeds and scatters them everywhere she walks. The next spring the whole countryside blooms, and she passes the same three goals on to her great niece.

WHAT THIS BOOK BUILDS

CASEL SKILLS

Responsible Decision Making. Alice sets goals for her life and follows through.

Social Awareness. Her gift is for everyone who passes by.

Self Management. She keeps going after an injury and a hard winter.

CHARACTER STRENGTHS

Appreciation of Beauty and Excellence. She fills the countryside with flowers.

Perseverance. She scatters seeds all summer long.

Curiosity. She travels the world to see faraway places.

COMMON CORE ELA

K RL.K.1, RL.K.3, RL.K.7, SL.K.1, W.K.3

Grade 1 RL.1.2, RL.1.3, RL.1.7, SL.1.1, W.1.3

Grade 2 RL.2.2, RL.2.3, RL.2.7, SL.2.1, W.2.3

FIND IT BY

Themes Nature, Kindness, Life Goals, Gardening

Season Spring

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