

READ★PRAY★WONDER★PLAY

A GUIDE TO SHARING STORIES WITH CHILDREN

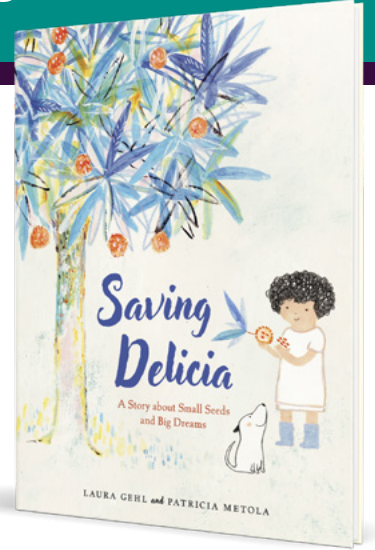
Saving Delicia: A Story about Small Seeds and Big Dreams

By Laura Gehl & Patricia Metola

Before reading this story with your child, read the Author's Note at the back of the book. After you've finished the story, depending on the age of your child, read the Author's Note together or share a summary with your child to give a real-world context to the ideas explored in this book.

Take note that an older character dies in this story. This may bring up feelings of grief or questions that you may want to talk about together.

Before reading the book together, look at the cover, and based on the illustrations and title, make predictions about what the story might be about. Depending on the reading stage of your child, either read the story aloud to them, or take turns alternating by sentence or page. Be sure to take time to explore the illustrations, especially in places where the pictures take over the storytelling to show an idea taking shape or the passage of time.



★ ★ WONDER TOGETHER ★ ★

- Are there any grown-ups you know who remind you of Old Otis?
- How did it make you feel when both Otis' life and the life of the last delicia tree ended?
- The children loved hearing stories about summers when Kari was little. Are there stories in your family from when grown-ups were little that you love? Share a new or familiar story.
- *With Younger Children:* The fruit of the delicia tree sounds delicious! What do you imagine it tastes like?
- *With Older Children:* Kari loved Old Otis and the delicia tree so much that "an idea sprouted in her mind." What is something that you have spent time learning about that "sprouted" a new idea for you?

★ ★ EXPLORE THE STORY ★ ★

- Explore the aspects of the story that are most interesting to you and your child. This may be the ecological practice of banking seeds, generational storytelling, varieties of fruits and plants, blight and other plant diseases, or something else.
- Take a nature walk and notice what different types of seeds look like. You can also visit a botanical garden, arboretum, or a garden center store.
- Try to grow a plant using the seed or pit of a food item such as avocado pits; the base of a bunch of celery; or pumpkin, squash, or pepper seeds.
- Let the description of the imaginary delicia fruit inspire you to try new or unfamiliar fruits! For extra fun, encourage children to rate each fruit, or to decide which fruit is the closest to how they imagine the delicia fruit would taste.

PRAY

God who made seeds of every shape and kind, and people of every shape and kind, we are grateful for how big your creation is. Help us to nurture things that grow, share the fruits of your goodness with others, and plant seeds of hope wherever we go. Amen.



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★ ★ DIG DEEPER ★ ★

This story is a beautiful tale of community that touches on so many things: joy and loss, sadness and hope, creativity and perseverance, and more. As you share this story together, notice which of these themes, or others that bubble up as you read, resonate most with you and your child. Follow their curiosity in considering how to engage more deeply with this book.

The Author's Note at the back of the book shares information about the Global Seed Vault in Svalbard, Norway. Do an internet search to find a variety of resources including websites, animated videos, photographs, and news in order to visualize and learn more about this fascinating place.

If *Saving Delicia* has inspired you to save seeds on your own, and/or to share seeds with others, search for community resources to help you to do so. Some ideas include:

- Visit a library to find books about harvesting and properly storing seeds.
- Connect with your local Cooperative Extension System for advice, resources, and educational opportunities. Cooperative Extension Systems operate under the umbrella of the United States Department of Agriculture.

MORE TO READ & DO

CLICK THE LINKS BELOW TO LEARN MORE

ADDITIONAL BOOKS ON SCIENCE, NATURE, & THE ENVIRONMENT

- [I Love You, Blue](#), by Barroux
- [The Good for Nothing Tree](#), by Amy-Jill Levine, Sandy Eisenberg Sasso, and Annie Bowler
- [The Marvelous Mustard Seed](#), by Amy-Jill Levine, Sandy Eisenberg Sasso, and Margaux Meganck
- [El maravilloso grano de mostaza](#), by Amy-Jill Levine, Sandy Eisenberg Sasso, and Margaux Meganck
- [The Marvelous Mustard Seed](#) (Korean), by Amy-Jill Levine, Sandy Eisenberg Sasso, and Margaux Meganck
- [Babbit and Joan, a Rabbit and a Phone](#), by Denise Turu

ADDITIONAL BOOKS BY LAURA GEHL

- [Apple and Magnolia](#), by Laura Gehl and Patricia Metola
- [Grandpa's Window](#), by Laura Gehl and Udayana Lugo

Guide written by Becky D'Angelo-Veitch and created in partnership with PC(USA)'s initiative "[Around the Table](#)" ([pcusa.org/aroundthetable](#)).



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