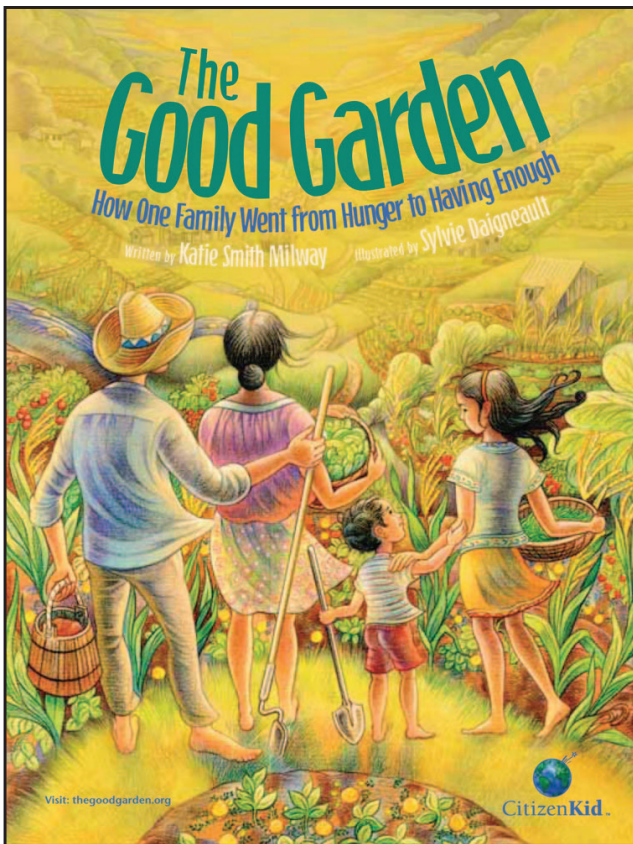




How to Use this book in your Classroom or Library

for ages 8–12



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\$19.95 CAD Hardcover / \$18.95 USD Hardcover

The Good Garden: How One Family Went from Hunger to Having Enough

Written by Katie Smith Milway
Illustrated by Sylvie Daigneault

The beautifully illustrated story of one struggling farming family in Honduras and their journey to grow enough food to meet their needs. Based on the real story of farm transformation underway in Honduras and many other countries, this book offers your students ways they can be part of the movement to grow “good gardens” and foster food security around the world, in their own countries and even in their own communities.

Katie Smith Milway is a partner at the Bridgespan Group, a consultant to nonprofits and philanthropists. She is also author of the internationally acclaimed *One Hen*. Katie lives in Wellesley, Massachusetts.

Sylvie Daigneault was born in Montreal and now makes her home in Toronto. *The Good Garden* is her thirteenth children’s book.

Visit www.thegoodgarden.org

Activities and Discussions

1. Explore the issue

Food security is one of the big issues of our time. Only half the people in the world always have enough food. The rest are not food secure: they cannot be sure of having enough food to meet their needs. And of that half, some 17 percent face real food shortages that may result in malnutrition and even starvation. Yet there is enough food on earth to feed all its inhabitants.

After reading *The Good Garden*, ask your students for their ideas on why some people go hungry. Reasons might include:

- climate variations, which affect local food production
- living in a poor part of the world or a city, where there is little money to buy food
- living in an area destabilized by wars or droughts
- not owning land where food could be grown

2. Put on a lunch

Bring home the idea of food security and insecurity by putting on a hunger lunch, such as Oxfam's Hunger Banquet™ (see <http://actfast.oxfamamerica.org>). Students pick tickets from a hat and, depending on what color of ticket they have, they get either:



- a plentiful meal
- some rice with beans,
- or just a bowl of plain rice

To make the point, make sure that only a few students get the full dinner while the majority get plain rice.

Ask your students to describe the experience of seeing that some people have unlimited access to food while others do not. Ask your students to describe ways that they can fight food insecurity.



3. Get growing

Setting up a school garden is one way to connect your students to the food they eat — and what it takes to grow food. Your school garden could be as simple as growing herbs in pots on classroom windowsills throughout the winter months or, if

you have available space on school property, you could plant different kinds of lettuce in the spring and enjoy many salads with your students before school lets out in June.

All you need to start is:

- a plot of land or pots with soil
- seeds and plants
- basic gardening tools (spading fork, hoe, watering cans, shovel, etc.)

A school garden will give your students the opportunity to work together as a team and enjoy the fruits (and vegetables) of their labour.



4. What if?

Stories like *The Good Garden* are based on real families. In the case of *The Good Garden*, the poor farmers of Honduras are the model for the story. Author Katie Smith Milway lived among these farmers and was moved by their lives to write the story. But this story is also fictionalized, and fictionalized stories can change.

Ask your students to write and illustrate alternate endings to the story. What do they think would have happened to María Luz and her family if she had never met the teacher, Don Pedro? What would have happened if a drought had wiped out María Luz's garden?

