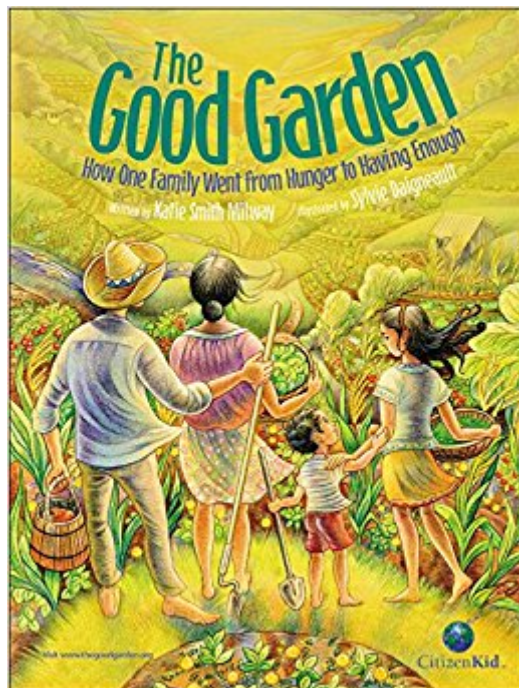




The book was found

The Good Garden: How One Family Went From Hunger To Having Enough (CitizenKid)



Synopsis

From the best-selling author of *One Hen* comes the inspiring story of one struggling farming family in Honduras and their journey to growing enough food to meet their needs. Based on the real story of farm transformation underway in Honduras and many other countries, this book offers children ways they can be part of the movement to grow "good gardens" and foster food security. Eleven-year-old MarÃ­a Luz and her family live on a small farm. This year their crop is poor, and they may not have enough to eat or to sell for other essentials, such as health care, school uniforms and books. When MarÃ­a's father must leave home to find work, she is left in charge of their garden. Then a new teacher comes to MarÃ­a's school and introduces her to sustainable farming practices that yield good crops. As MarÃ­a begins to use the same methods at home, she too sees improvements, which allow her family to edge their way out of the grip of the greedy "coyotes" --- the middlemen who make profits on the backs of poor farmers. Little by little, the farms --- and the hopes --- of MarÃ­a and her neighbors are transformed as good gardens begin to grow.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 820L (What's this?)

Series: CitizenKid

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Kids Can Press (September 1, 2010)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 9.5 x 0.4 x 12.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 15 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #206,492 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #72 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Central & South America](#) #156 in [Books > Children's Books > Children's Cookbooks](#) #243 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Where We Live > Farm Life](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Gr 3-5 *When Marjorie's Papa makes the tough decision to leave their hillside home in Honduras to seek employment elsewhere, he puts the girl in charge of planting and tending their winter garden. The land has taken a beating, rain has been scarce, and invading insects have taken more than their share of the meager crops. It is a big responsibility for Marjorie, but fortunately for her and her family, a new teacher has arrived at her school with fresh ideas for how to feed and restore the soil. As Marjorie applies new techniques such as terracing, composting, and companion planting, she also learns that they need not rely on the unscrupulous "coyotes" who have historically acted as loan sharks and middlemen, denying the villagers any kind of profit and independence that would help them get ahead. Taken at a literal level, this is a story of how sustainable farming practices can nourish families and the earth simultaneously. On a deeper level, it is about social justice and self-sustaining economies, which make this a book that can span a broader interest level. The stylized colored-pencil artwork is appropriately lush and idealized. The "coyotes" are literally depicted as men with animal heads. The book concludes with information about the real families and teacher behind this story, as well as resources and suggestions for getting involved in gardening or supporting worldwide food security.* Maggie Chase, Boise State University, ID © Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

In rural Honduras, Marjorie and her family are campesinos, farmers who eke out a subsistence from small, depleted land plots. Forced to leave the family to earn additional wages, Papa puts Marjorie in charge of the family garden. From her new teacher, Marjorie learns exciting, sustainable techniques about terracing plots, composting, and growing complementary plants, as well as selling crops directly at the market, rather than dealing with the coyote, a predatory broker who has repossessed many of the Duartes' neighbors' land. Each spread in this illuminating book begins with a title that divides the lengthy text into chapterlike sections that could be easily read aloud in installments. Daigneault's vibrant colored-pencil illustrations incorporate Latin American culture with both the details of daily life and swirls of magical realism; the nefarious coyote, for example, sports an actual coyote's head atop his human body. More about food security and sustainable farming closes this moving, informative entry in the publisher's CitizenKid line that will partner nicely with Jan Reynolds' *Cycle of Rice, Cycle of Life* (2009). Grades 2-4. --Gillian Engberg

Yes, yes, finally!!! I have ordered several different books recently that dealt with social and

economic issues for children. Some of them were also Latin American in focus and none come even close to this book. There is a real story that will engage any child, even those with no interest in the setting or issues. Both the setting in Honduras and the economic issues of the adult world are dealt with in accessible ways, so that children of all backgrounds can understand the story. There is also a lot of depth here that some will not always get but it isn't necessary to understanding the basic story. There are things for teachers and parents to discuss with kids of various levels. But the basic thing is that this is a well written and nicely illustrated book with a real story that grabs the reader. It will be FUN for kids to read or listen to while they learn about issues of international economics and social justice.

This is a very inspiring story. I'm not sure young children would sit through it. Maybe age 8 or 10 would be a good age for this even though it's a picture book. It could lead to some very inspiring discussions.

We used it for our Sunday School lessons, the children really liked it. The pictures allowed us to "tell" the story rather than read it.

Bought it for my 7.5yr old girl. It captured and sustained her interest right through the very end. She being easily distractable. It's a value book in terms of the education it imparts in a simple story. And then the facts at the back of the book resolidifies that this is not just a story but something that has been done in real life.

Excellent book and well written! 5yr old son loves it! We have a garden (more educational and hobby) and this book helps stress the importance of gardens and growing your own food. It also gives a window into how other people live in other places in the world.

Bought this for the "children's section" of my book collection. It tells such a good story on a child's level of understanding. Why the small actions and community cooperation make such a difference. "The Good Garden" plants potent seeds in a child's imagination.

Teaches children how others live and ways to help others. Also basics on gardening.

Book for my classroom library. Students enjoy it.

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