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# Activity Guide

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## The Carrot Seed

### ABOUT THE STORY

A little boy planted a carrot seed. His mother says, "I'm afraid it won't come up." His father and his big brother agree. At first, it seems they're right. But the little boy knows better. So, every day, he pulls up weeds and waters the ground until, one day, just as the little boy knew it would, something very special happens. This is a story with a very special message.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ruth Krauss is the author of the Caldecott Honor Book, *The Happy Day*, illustrated by Marc Simont, and *A Hole Is To Dig*, illustrated by Maurice Sendak.

### ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Crockett Johnson, the illustrator, is the much-loved author and illustrator of the popular Harold series.

### INTRODUCING THE STORY

Explain to the group that this is a story with a very special message. Ask them, as they read along, to think about just what that message might be.

### READING ACTIVITIES

#### **Comprehension/Thinking Skills**

- "Who was the first one to tell the little boy his carrot wouldn't come up? Who was the second person? Do you think they were trying to hurt the little boy's feelings?"
- "Who was the third person? What did he say that was just a little different from what the first two said? Why do you think he said it the way he did?"
- "What did the little boy do after he planted the seed?"
- "What happened then? How big was the carrot when it finally came up?"

### **Double Consonants & Double Words**

Have the group reread the story and list the words in it containing double consonants. A list of these words follow:

little, pulled, carrot, and still

Only two words in the story (seed, weeds) contain double vowels. Ask the group to find them.

### **Syllabication**

Write the following words on the board. As you read each word aloud, ask the group to hold up the number of fingers corresponding to the number of syllables it contains:

|         |           |          |
|---------|-----------|----------|
| planted | father    | nothing  |
| carrot  | brother   | came     |
| seed    | come      | everyone |
| mother  | around    | saying   |
| afraid  | sprinkled | wouldn't |
| up      | water     | just     |

### **CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

#### **Language Arts: The Message of the Story**

Ask the group to pick out which of the following statements comes closest to being the message of the story:

- Other people are always right. And if they say you should give up, you should.
- Other people are always wrong and you should never listen to them.
- It's always a good idea to listen to other people. But sometimes they're wrong. And if you think something is worth doing and you're willing to work at it, then you should try to do it.

Divide the group into small groups and have them write another story that reflects this message.

#### **Determined Leaders**

Many famous people in history accomplished great things even though other people laughed at them and said they couldn't. Tell the group about Christopher Columbus and how people laughed at him when he said the world was round. Point out that he refused to give up and he discovered a very big carrot indeed (America and the New World).

Have children do research to find other examples of historical leaders whose efforts were rewarded by determinations.