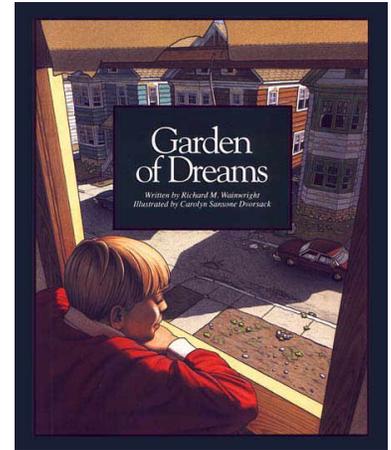


Garden of Dreams

By
Richard M. Wainwright



Synopsis

This is a multicultural story of a young boy's dreams to improve his neighborhood. *Garden of Dreams* takes place in a racially-diverse neighborhood where courage and hard work are shown to produce results. Anthony's project to create a neighborhood garden teaches him the power of community and the need to rise above problems as they present themselves over and over again. Anthony's vision is realized with the help of his neighbors and their support of his dream.

Discussion Questions

1. Describe Mr. K's life in Greece. What do you think is meant by the phrase "some days hope was all they could afford"?
2. Why is Mr. K. described as a "living symbol of hope"?
3. What qualities did Anthony learn from Mr. K?
4. What do the words 'perseverance' and 'resilience' mean? Which character showed these qualities?
5. Have you ever started a project and at first failed, but tried again later and eventually succeeded? If so, describe your project.
6. Growing a successful garden can be difficult no matter where it is. What obstacles did Anthony face, and can you name other challenges a person might have to overcome when growing a garden?
7. Have you ever had a fight with a good friend? What do you think is the best way to solve a disagreement with a friend?
8. What did Anthony sacrifice to allow his community to build window boxes for his neighborhood?
9. Can you think of an occasion when you did a good deed and even though you did not expect to receive anything in return, something nice happened to you?

Project:

Read this story before starting your own garden. First, find a location that is in need of "sprucing up". Second, decide what you will plant and how you will lay out your garden. Third, be aware of how you will need to work with others and what kinds of obstacles you might expect to encounter while you pursue this project together. Keep an ongoing journal to track your progress, document any obstacles you face as well as discuss everyone's contributions to the project.

For more information on this or any other book by Richard, please visit:

www.rmwinwright.com