

Dreamygirl's Field of Wishes
Ensoñación y el Jardín de Sueños
by

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Summary

Dreamygirl receives the dream seeds of children at night and watches over each of them as each child grows up to meet their goals.

Ideas for Family & Classroom use

Discussion questions - encourage children to find examples from the story to document their answers.

What are some of the dreams Dreamygirl receives at night? Are they a bit like the dreams you have yourself?

How does Dreamygirl nurture and take care of the dream seeds? Does her care of the seeds remind you of anything or anyone in your life?

What does it mean when one of the starblossoms tumble?

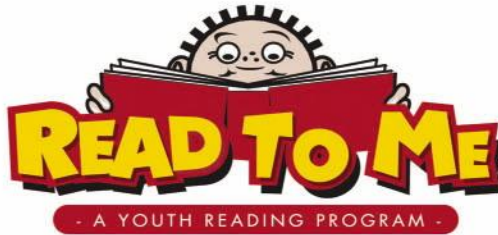
Why is it important to dream and to set goals for ourselves?

Responding to the Story

Writing

Making Wish Lists

What do your children wish or dream about? In this short, quick activity, children are asked to write wishes for every part of their lives. They need a large piece of paper or several index cards, and a pencil. If children are young, you can be the scribe for them and record as you ask each question. If children can write, remind them that in this instance, spelling doesn't matter as long as what they write is legible to them.



Tell children that they are to write as many ideas that come to mind as you ask the following questions. There are no “right” or “wrong” answers.

When children are ready, ask them to write down the word:

“HOME”

“Under that word, write down anything that comes to mind about wishes or dreams you have for your family or home life?”

“Now write the word, “FRIENDS.”

Under that word, write down anything that comes to mind when you wish or dream about your friends.

Write the word, “SCHOOL.”

Under “School,” write down anything that comes to mind when you make wishes about your grades or experiences at school.

Write “GROWING UP.”

Under that, write any dreams you have about what you might be when you grow up.

Finally, write the words, “THE WORLD.”

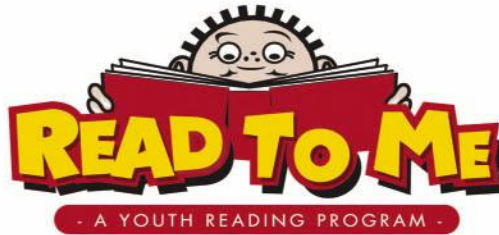
Write down anything that comes to mind when you think about making wishes or dreams for our world.

Are some of your wishes and dreams possible – for your home and family, your friends, school, growing up, and for our world? Talk with your family and classmates about what you can do today, to move towards making some of the wishes for yourself and your world come true. Are there others who might help you? Be sure to share your dreams for yourself and others with those who love and care about you – they are sure to encourage you to follow your dreams and your heart’s desire.

Art

Creating starblossom flowers

Encourage children to create their very own starblossom flower sharing their goals and dreams. On pages 16-17 in the book, you will find a beautiful mural of children’s starblossom flowers. Give each child a basic flower pattern to trace and cut out. You will find a “starblossom flower” pattern that you can adapt to the size of your background (either classroom mural or refrigerator, etc.) at the following website: http://www.preschooexpress.com/pattern_station02/flower_patterns_apr02.pdf



Carefully glue the top (only) of a large cutout star on which children have carefully written their names, onto the child's flower. Or, you might choose to glue the top of a photo of each child onto the background blossom. To finish off each blossom, have the child write a dream they have for themselves underneath the star or photo.

Make a starblossom mural

In classrooms, teachers might add twisted paper stems and leaves to the bottom of each blossom to create a mural like on pages 16-17. At home, parents can display a child's starblossom near their bed so Dreamygirl can easily find their dreams at night.

Science

Planting "starblossoms (sunflowers)

All children enjoy planting seeds and watching them grow. Sunflowers are elegant and easy-to-grow flowers. They too, grow very tall and have long, strong stalks like the star blossoms in the book. Whether grown at home or in the classroom, here are some basic steps to help you and your children plant sunflower seeds:

<http://www.yates.com.au/kids-gardening/in-the-garden/grow-a-giant-sunflower/>

♥*Created by Val Hornburg, Portland, OR, 2009*