

Family Paideia Seminar Plan

Text:  **You Never Hear the Garden Grow** by Lilian Moore

Ideas, Values: Beauty, Science, Change, Movement, Seen and Unseen

Pre-Seminar Content

Big Ideas Chat:

Share the quote:

“Look at a tree, a flower, a plant. Let your awareness rest upon it. How still they are, how deeply rooted in ‘just being’. Allow nature to teach you stillness. When you look at a tree and perceive its stillness, you become still yourself.” - Eckhart Tolle

Discuss what you think this statement means and how it connects to the title of the poem.

1st Read:

Read aloud the text while family and/or friends listen.

Vocabulary:

Check to see if there are any words that need to be talked about before the discussion begins. Listeners or readers can use context clues to help figure out possible definitions or use a dictionary or device to get a formal definition.

2nd Read:

Have another participant in the discussion to read the text aloud. Then talk about the connection between “just being” still and how a plant grows. Make a note of the idea of Seen and Unseen.

Pre-Seminar Process:

* Share why you are having the discussion.

(Sample script from our classroom Paideia Seminars: Modify to fit your household.)

*“A Paideia seminar is a collaborative, intellectual dialogue about a text, facilitated with open ended questions.”*

*“The main purpose of seminar is to arrive at a fuller understanding of the textual ideas and values, of ourselves, and of each other.”*

* Describe what you want to accomplish.
* Set a Family Goal.
* To balance the talk time
* To refer to the text
* To ask a question
* To speak out of uncertainty
* To build on others’ comments

Seminar Questions:

* Opening (Identify main ideas from the text):
  + How can something be so active and have little to no sound?

(Don’t share why until everyone has had a chance to answer.)

* + Which line of the poem should have the loudest sound? (anyone can share)
* Core (Analyze textual details):
  + Why might the author have chosen a title like “You Never Hear the Garden Grow?” (Anyone can share)
  + How do humans and other animals or elements impact how plants grow?

(List at least two positive ways and two negative ways)

* How are the ideas of beauty and science connected?
* What is the connection between a plant growing and a body aging?
* Closing (Personalize and apply the ideas):
  + If you were to add an additional line to this poem, what would it be and where would you place it?

Post-Seminar Process:

*“Ask each person what they liked most about the discussion.”*

* Have the family do a quick check of the discussion goal.

Post Seminar Content:

* Transition to Writing:

Review and discuss key ideas that you heard, said, and thought during the family seminar. Chat about the connection between the quote from the big idea chat and the seminar text. How are they alike, and how are they different?

Writing:

Find an observation spot in your house where you can see a plant. The plant can be inside or outside, young or old. Keep a sketchbook or journal to note what changes you observe over time.

Be mindful of taking in any sounds or movements that are happening around you.

Try to come back to this spot daily at the same time, even if it is just for a moment.

This Paideia Lesson Plan was created by:

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\*Text is attached if open sourced.

\*Text is cited if it needs to be procured.

<https://poemsinyourpocket.wordpress.com/tag/lilian-moore/>

You Never Hear the Garden Grow

Row on row,  
you never hear the garden  
grow.

Seeds split.  
Roots shove and reach.  
Earth heaves.

Leaves unfurl.  
Stems pierce the  
ground.

Pea pods fatten.  
Vines  
stretch and curl.

Such growing  
going on  
without a sound!

-Lilian Moore