

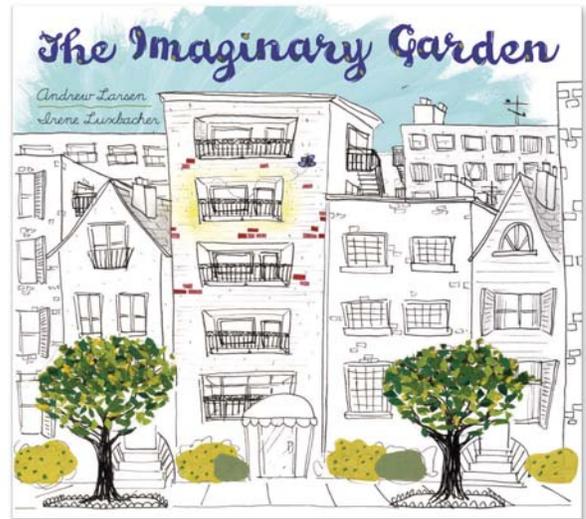
# Storytime Suggestions for *The Imaginary Garden*

## Storytime Props

Make storytime more creative and fun by including props to encourage group participation, emphasize important scenes in the story and get into character.

You might include:

- different kinds of plastic flowers
- paint brushes
- gardening hats
- a suitcase
- two chairs



## Activity Materials

After reading the story, your group can use these suggested materials to have fun exploring the concepts that have been introduced in *The Imaginary Garden* such as art, creativity, the seasons, family and inspiration.

- chart paper
- paints
- paint brushes
- markers or pencil crayons
- photocopies of activity on page 2

## Before Storytime

Ask your group who has grandparents. What are the things they love about them? What are some activities they enjoy doing together with their grandparents? Ask the group to share a time when they created something with their grandparents. Use examples like baking or making crafts to start the discussion.



## After Storytime

Keep the fun going by asking your group to participate in some of the following activities:

1. Theo and her grandfather use paints to create an imaginary garden. Using examples from the story, demonstrate to your group how colors can be mixed together to create other colors. Have them suggest colors not included in the story to mix and see what they create.
2. In *The Imaginary Garden*, Theo and her grandfather paint five different flowers on their canvas. Explain to your group how different flowers sprout at different times during spring — at the beginning, in the middle and at the end. Then, have them make a list of the five flowers from the book and put them in the order that they sprout. Encourage your group to identify the names of other flowers they know.
3. Hand out photocopies of the “canvas” on page 2. Ask your group to create their own imaginary garden. What types of flowers, other plants and animals can be found in their garden? Is their garden real or magical? Encourage them to be creative.

# What's in your imaginary garden?

