

Shared Reading

Title: Get the Scoop!

Grade: 4

Genre: Nonfiction

Form: Poetry

Page Count: 16

Word Count: 411 (not including step labels for chart on pp. 14-15)

Writer's Message: Sometimes what is considered waste can be turned into something useful.

Natural processes are beneficial in many ways.



FOUNTAS & PINNELL CLASSROOM

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If so, give composting a try!
Composting recycles waste from your kitchen and yard into fertilizer for your garden. This book gives you the scoop on composting from start to finish.

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ISBN: 978-0-325-12371-4
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Nonfiction: Poetry
411 Total Running Words



GET THE SCOOP!

Plans and Poems for Making Compost

BY JENNIFER BOUDART ILLUSTRATIONS BY DAVE SMITH

Get the Scoop! Plans and Poems for Making Compost

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ISBN-13: 978-0-325-11925-0

Design and Production by Dinardo Design LLC
Editorial Development by Heinemann

Credits

Illustrations: Dave Smith

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Printed in China

1 2 3 4 5 RRD 26 25 24 23 22

January 2022 Printing

Text Elements

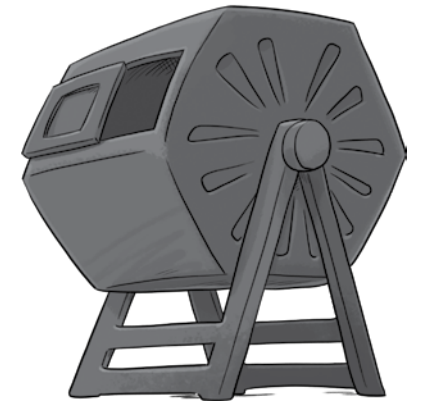
Form: Poetry

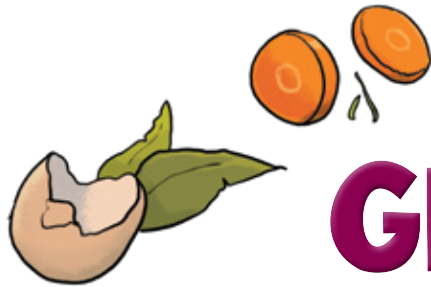
Poetry Elements: alliteration, imagery, repetition, rhythm, rhyme

Text Features: infographic, sidebars

Author's Note

When I got my tumbling composter, I was so excited! I was also worried about doing it wrong, but it was really easy. In about a month, I had my first batch of “black gold,” which is what home gardeners call compost. I love composting because it keeps food waste out of landfills. Plus, it’s a natural way to fertilize your plants. I hope you have a chance to give composting a try!
—Jennifer Boudart





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COMPOST

- C**ontained space
- O**rganic material
- M**oisture
- P**roduction of heat
- O**xygen
- S**ecret ingredient
- T**urning action

The Inside Scoop

What is composting? It's a simple way to turn kitchen and yard waste into soil-like fertilizer for your plants. Composting works by speeding up decomposition—the fancy word for rotting.

Composter from Aisle Four

We found you at the garden store,
I spotted you in aisle four.
So many features to adore.
Spinning barrel, sliding door.

We placed you in the perfect spot.
Won't get too wet, won't get too hot.
I cannot wait to have a shot
at making plant food out of rot!

4



The Inside Scoop


Where's a good place for composting?
You could make a simple pile on the ground or set up a homemade bin.
A store-bought composter will speed up the process, especially one that can spin.





GREENS AND BROWNS ABOUND

Scraps of **raw fruits** and **veggies**, **eggshells** and old **coffee grounds**, **tea leaves** and clippings from **houseplants**, the “**greens**” in your kitchen abound.



Bark chips, **small twigs**, and **corn stalks**, **dry leaves** raked up from the ground, clumps of **dry grass**, **straw**, or **hay**, the “**browns**” in your yard abound.

Non-glossy **paper** and **cardboard**—these items are also a go.

Pests are attracted to meat, bones, and dairy—so these are a definite no.

The Inside Scoop

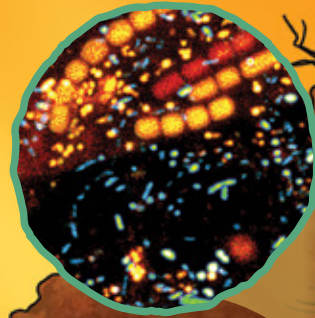
What gets collected? Two kinds of organic material are collected for composting. They're nicknamed “greens” and “browns.” Everything's biodegradable, which means it can rot and break down.

MIGHTY MICROBES

Tiny, invisible
yet **MIGHTY** in nature.

Decomposers, recyclers.
Breaking down organic matter,
releasing nutrients
living things need to grow.

Tiny, invisible
yet **MIGHTY** in nature.



These photos show different types of microbes commonly found in compost. The microbes have been magnified thousands of times their actual size.

The Inside Scoop

What's the "secret ingredient"?

Microbes, billions of them! You can't see these microscopic organisms, but you can see the results of their work. These tiny decomposers break everything down into something that looks like dirt.

TUMBLE, TURN, AND SPIN

Tumble, turn, and spin—add some helpful oxygen. Swirl and twirl it all around—really blend those greens and browns.



The Inside Scoop

What helps compost to “cook”? Regularly turning the compost mixes everything together, adds oxygen, evens out moisture, and keeps things warm but not too hot. All of that helps microbes do their best work.

THE DIRTY DISCOVERY

For weeks I've rotated my bin.
I feel a bit scared to peek in.
It really did rot,
Now look what I've got,
It's compost—wow that makes me grin!

The Inside Scoop

When is compost ready?
Looks like dirt? Smells like dirt? That's when it's been perfected. Time to grab a bucket and get it all collected.

How to Compost



1 Get set up.



2 Add greens and browns.



3 Turn regularly.



4 Keep compost about as moist as a damp sponge.



5 Collect when compost looks, feels, and smells like soil.



6 Sprinkle around!



COMPOST

Soil born from waste

Organic, nutritious

Life-giving fuel for verdant growth

Earth's gift