

# The Spring Flower

by Jamie Floyd

Written and drawn by hand, *The Spring Flower* teaches young readers that being different is beautiful and that being unique is something to be proud of.



## Read

### Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *If you were a flower, where would you live?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder how that flower grew around the little girl's head?

### During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

### Rare Words in *The Spring Flower*

- wise: knowing much from experience or a learned knowledge
- bloomed: flowering
- petals: the colored part of the flower
- peeked: to take a quick look at something

### After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Why were the flowers starting to bloom? What was happening to the weather?
- Who was the first flower to bloom? Why was Mama so important?
- Can you describe what the tree looked like after the flowers started to bloom?
- What were some of the things that the people would say about the flowers?
- Why was Emma so sad? Why didn't Emma want to bloom?
- What did Mama say to Emma to get her to bloom?
- How did the people react to Emma once they saw her? How did that make Emma feel?

## Do

### Flower Patterns

You will need: gray construction paper and crayons (white and pink)

After reading the story, give each child a piece of gray construction paper, one white crayon and one pink crayon. Have the children draw one white flower and then one pink flower. Have them repeat the AB pattern across their entire paper. If desired, you can have the children practice the AAB, ABB and/or ABC patterns (add a third color for the ABC pattern).

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