

The Carrot Seed - Ruth Krauss

Author Angel Chan (Sin Tone) Student School of ECE Ryerson University	Book <i>The Carrot Seed</i> by Ruth Krauss
Before Reading <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explain the virtue of perseverance.<ul style="list-style-type: none">- It's not giving up, "hanging in there" until you complete the task you started.- It's having the self-discipline to continue a task in spite of being confronted with difficulties and failures.- Perseverance requires determination and confidence.• Activate prior knowledge.<ul style="list-style-type: none">- "If at first you don't succeed, try try again!"- Have you ever heard this phrase before?- What does perseverance mean and not mean?- Do you remember the times when you persevered? Or describe a time when you kept trying even though you felt like giving up. What happened?- How many of you know how to ride the bicycle? Did you fall many times? Did you give up riding the bicycle because you fell? Learning to ride the bicycle without training wheels take a lot of effort and tries, doesn't it?- What are the kinds of things you hear people who 'don't give up' say? ("I can do it!", "I'll try again!", "Don't give up!", "I'll give it the best I have!")• Discuss if we always feel like persevering.<ul style="list-style-type: none">- What are difficult tasks for you? Do you give up on a task because it is difficult? What can you do to overcome and finish these tasks?- Do you think you will succeed if you keep trying?- How do you feel when you're discouraged? When you fail? Or when you want to give up?- How do you feel after persevering and completing a task?• Introduce the book/cover.<ul style="list-style-type: none">- What is the little boy holding? A seed?- Who do you think will be persevering in this story?- Today I am going to read <i>The Carrot Seed</i>, by Ruth Krauss.- This is a story of a little boy who demonstrated perseverance.- Can you predict what he will do with the seed? Will he try to grow it?	
Reading <p>Pages 3-4. Why do you think the mother said that the seed won't come up? What do you think the little boy is thinking after hearing his mother say that? How do you</p>	

think he feels? Do you think he is discouraged? Would you be discouraged if you were the little boy? I wonder what he will do with the seed now...

Pages 5-6. Oh no! Even the little boy's father said that the seed won't come up! Does the little boy's face show disappointment? What will you do if both your mother and father told you that the carrot seed you planted won't grow? Will you give up on growing the carrot? If you put a speech bubble above the little boy's head, what do you think the little boy would say in his head? If you were the little boy, what would you say to your parents as a response?

Pages 7-8. Even his big brother said that the seed won't come up! I wonder why everyone is telling the little boy that he won't succeed in growing the carrot with his seed. Is it because they give up easily? Is it because they don't have patience? The little boy's eyebrow look a bit furrowed, is he angry? I wonder if he will listen to his family and stop planting the seed...do you think so?

Pages 9-10. Everyday the little boy pulled up the weeds and sprinkled the ground with water. Why do you think the little boy did that even after everyone's discouragement that the seed won't come up?

Pages 13-14. Nothing came up! Do you think the little boy's family might be right? Would the seed really not come up? If everyone kept telling you that the seed won't come up and nothing came up for awhile, would you give up?

Pages 15-16. Who is telling the little boy that it wouldn't come up? How many people? Do you think it is right for them to say that? Do you believe that it wouldn't come up? If yes, why? If no, why not? I wonder what the little boy will do now...

Pages 17-18. Hmm...what is the little boy doing? Why? Did the little boy change his mind after what his family said to him? Do you think he will change his mind later?

Pages 21-22. A carrot came up! What does this mean? Is this what it means to show perseverance and persistence? Would the little boy still have a carrot in the end if he had given up when his family told him to?

Pages 23-24. Why do you think the little boy had known the carrot would come up? What does this show? Confidence?

After Reading

- Who has shown perseverance throughout the story?
- What was the task that the little boy was trying to complete?
- What did the little boy do to show his perseverance?
- What were the difficulties or failures that the little boy faced during the growth of his carrot seed?
- Why do you think his family all said the same thing to him?
- How did you feel about these difficulties? Would you give up if you were

the little boy?

- Did the little boy show any signs of giving up in the story? If so, when?
- Did the little boy change his perspective or attitude throughout the story?
- Would the little boy still have a carrot in the end of the story if he gave up when his family discouraged him?
- What would have happened if the little boy had listened to his family and had not kept trying?
- What was the little boy rewarded because of his perseverance and patience with the seed?
- How do you think the story will end if the little boy had given up?
- What qualities did the little boy demonstrated throughout the story?
- Do you have those qualities?
- In what ways are you like the little boy?
- In what ways are you different from the little boy?
- How do you think the little boy feels after persevering? Is he proud? Is he confident? Happy?
- Would you feel the same way if you persevered like the little boy?
- Do you remember another story where a character demonstrated perseverance when he/she was facing difficulties, obstacles or discouragement?
- How is this story similar to the story of The Tortoise and The Hare?
- How are the obstacles different and how are they similar?
- How did you feel before you heard the story?
- How did you feel after you heard the story?
- Have you ever been in a situation where you felt like you want to give up on a task because it was too difficult? Like riding the bicycle without training wheels? Or learning to walk as a baby?
- Did you receive any encouragement to complete your task(s)? If so, what kinds of things did you hear from other people?
- Let's think about people who might be in the same situation as the little boy. Who are some people that persevered?
- How is the little boy similar to Terry Fox?
- What did Terry Fox do to show that he won't give up despite his amputated leg?
- Do you need perseverance to be an inventor? A musician? Athlete?
- Why is it important to not give up on a task? What rewards or returns might you get due to your perseverance?
- What are some examples of showing perseverance in your everyday life? Are you showing perseverance when you try a new sport that's very difficult for you? Try out for a spot on a team for a second time after you don't make it the first time around? What else?