

# AMARA'S FARM

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**YouthREAD 2025**

Grades K-2  
Book Selection

Amara is hosting a potluck for friends on her farm, and she needs help finding her pumpkins to serve a tasty dish. What do we know about pumpkins? They're large, round, and orange—and, wait a minute, is that a pumpkin? No, that's an apple. Where, oh, where could those pumpkins be? Can you help Amara find them in time for her potluck?

Playful text guides young readers to hunt for visual clues and compare and contrast the unique characteristics of pumpkins against okra, cauliflower, eggplant, and other produce that grows on Amara's intergenerational family farm.

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**Join our CommunityREAD by reading and sharing this book, then enrich the experience with these questions and activities.**

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is the setting of this book? Where does it take place? During what time of year?
- What do you already know about farms? What things did you learn from reading this book?
- What fruit or vegetable is shown on each page? Have you ever eaten this food? Which fruit or vegetable in this book is your favorite?
- What do you already know about pumpkins? What new information did you learn about pumpkins from reading this book?
- Besides fruits and vegetables, what other things could you find on a farm?
- What is a potluck? Have you ever been to a potluck? Why do you think Amara wanted to have a potluck for her friends? If you were going to Amara's potluck, what food would you bring?
- Is this book fiction or nonfiction? Explain why.

## ACTIVITIES

- Draw a plan for your own garden, similar to the picture of Amara's farm as seen on the opening spread. Label the kinds of plants you would put in each section.
- Gather together some potting soil, seeds, and a container. Plant the seeds. Remember to water the seeds and place them somewhere with plenty of sunlight. Watch the seed sprout and grow. Record these changes by drawing or taking photos and measuring the plant(s).
- Try eating some of the different fruits and vegetables mentioned in the book: apple, cauliflower, eggplant, fig, kiwi, kumquat, okra, persimmon, potato, and pumpkin.
- Bake the molasses pumpkin bread recipe found at the back of the book. Before you bake, you can watch this video of the author baking the recipe with a couple of kids.



Share what you did with the library on Facebook ([facebook.com/FHCPL](https://facebook.com/FHCPL)) or Instagram (@FHCPL).



## WHAT IS COMMUNITYREAD?

CommunityREAD is a month-long community event that encourages reading and discussion. Each year, a different CommunityREAD book is chosen, along with a selection of YouthREAD books that explore similar topics and themes for younger readers.

The 2025 CommunityREAD book is *Gaining Ground: A Story of Farmers' Markets, Local Food, and Saving the Family Farm* by Forrest Pritchard. The author will speak at the Marathon Center for the Performing Arts on Thursday, March 20 at 7:30 PM.

## 2025 YOUTHREAD TITLES

- Preschool: *Here Are the Seeds* by JaNay Brown-Wood
- Grades K-2: *Amara's Farm* by JaNay Brown-Wood
- Grades 3-5: *Stepping Stones* by Lucy Knisley
- Grades 6-8: *The Labors of Hercules Beal* by Gary D. Schmidt
- Grades 9-12: *Bend in the Road* by Sara Biren

