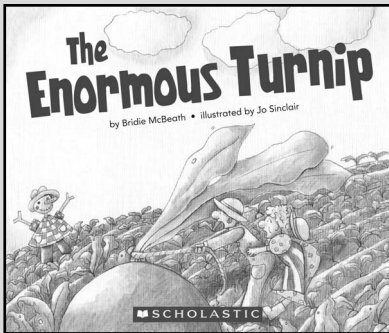


# The Enormous Turnip



## The Enormous Turnip Teachers' Notes

**Learning objective:** Year 1, 8b: Visualise and comment on events, characters and ideas, making imaginative links to own experiences

**Key words:** Mr, Mrs, what, said

**Cross-curricular/theme links:** Growing plants, food

**Genre:** Fiction

**NC level:** Approximately Level 1C-1B

**Assessment:** AF3, Level 1: Comments/questions about meanings of parts of text

**Word count:** 222

### Getting started

Look at the cover picture and read the title together. Do the children know the story of the Enormous Turnip? Ask them to share what they know, or make predictions about the story based on the cover.

### Guided reading

**Pages 2-3:** Remind the children to use their phonic knowledge when tackling unknown words. Encourage them to split longer words such as 'Farmer' and 'planted' into syllables and sound out and blend all through each syllable in turn.

**Pages 4-7:** Prompt the children to pause during their reading to think about the story. On page 7, ask: 'Do you think Mr and Mrs Farmer were glad to have such an enormous turnip, or could it be a problem?'

**Pages 8-11:** Ask the children to look out for the repeating words on these pages. At pages 9 and 11, pause so they can predict what might happen next. Will the characters manage to shift the turnip?

**Pages 12-15:** On page 13, ask: 'How do you think the little mouse managed to shift the turnip?' Point out that the mouse just gave the tiny extra bit of help that was needed to get the turnip moving. On pages 14-15, ask: 'Does the food Mrs Farmer made out of the turnip sound good? Would you want to eat turnip ice cream?'

**Page 16:** Ask: 'Why do you think Mrs Farmer suggested growing watermelons? If a turnip could get that big, how big might an enormous *watermelon* grow?'

### Speaking and listening

- In pairs, the children could practise retelling the story to each other, using the pictures in the book as a prompt if necessary.

### After reading

Use these questions to help children talk about the story.

- Who helped the Farmers to pull up the turnip? Can you remember all the different characters who helped, in the right order?
- Do you think the Farmers were pleased to have such an enormous turnip?
- What happened at the end of the story?

### Reading into writing

Children could write an invitation to the Farmers' turnip feast party, inviting their friends and neighbours to come along.

### Book quiz for children

- 1 Who was the first person who came to help Mr Farmer pull up the turnip?
- 2 How did the characters manage to pull up the turnip in the end?
- 3 What different types of food did Mrs Farmer make out of the turnip?

### Support for less confident readers

Less confident readers could tackle the story in pairs, perhaps with one reader taking on the dialogue and another reading the narrative, or with both readers taking alternate pages.

### Extension for more confident readers

In groups or pairs, children could work on their own version of the story based on a different crop – for example, The Enormous Strawberry or The Enormous Watermelon.