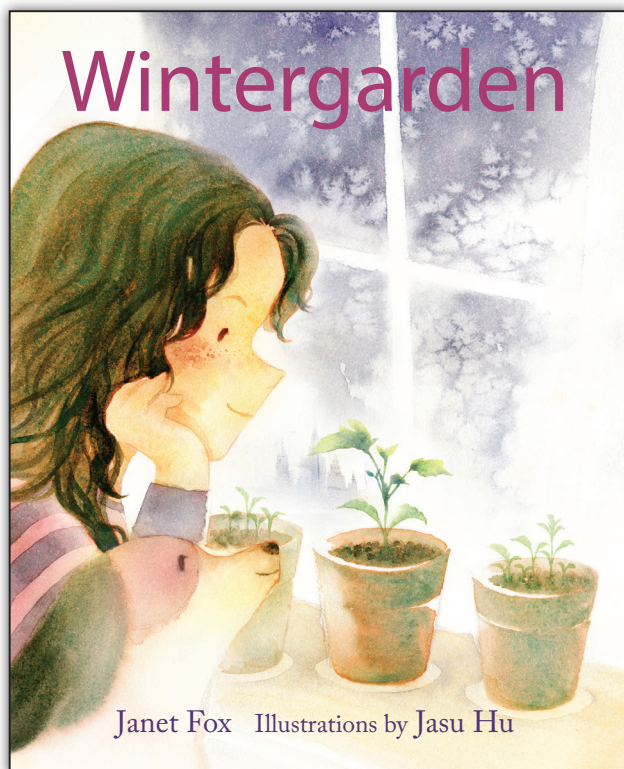


# HOLIDAY HOUSE EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



Neal Porter Books · HC: 9780823451012

## *Wintergarden*

by Janet Fox

illustrated by Jasu Hu

### FOUR STARRED REVIEWS!

- ★ “Radiant.”—*Booklist*
- ★ “Tender.”—*Publishers Weekly*
- ★ “Glowing and warm, full of life.”  
—*Kirkus Reviews*
- ★ “Synchronous perfection.”  
—*Shelf Awareness*

### ABOUT THE BOOK

**Growing and harvesting an herb garden can be fun and oh-so satisfying—even in the dead of winter.**

*Winter outside the window,  
Garden on the sill.*

With a little bit of love and care, a few seeds nestled in pots, and a good windowsill, there's no better time to make an herb garden with Mom than in the dead of winter. Together, a young girl and her mother can grow everything you find in a spring herb garden, from oregano to parsley and baby greens, carefully tending their plants to watch them thrive, all while frigid snow falls just outside the window. The multiple harvests of fresh greens are just what they need to stay warm through the coldest and darkest season. When spring finally arrives, there's one thing on the girl's mind: more seeds!



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Take a close look at the cover art. Who is the main character? Setting is when and where a story takes place. Identify the setting. Consider the title of the book. What do you think the book is about? How does the art on the end pages contribute to the story?
- Figurative language is used to create certain images in the reader's mind. Simile is a type of figurative language that compares two unrelated things using "like" or "as." Point out the simile on p. 4. Identify other similes in the book.
- Note the illustration on page 1 & 2. In what way does the illustrator spotlight the mother? Where does the mother plant the wintergarden? Turn the page and study the girl. What do you think she is saying to her mother? What happens when the "shoots push up and up"? How does this reveal the girl's imagination?
- How does the wintergarden help the family? Explain why they suddenly need more seeds. Discuss why the girl is prepared to pick the seed packets. At what point does the reader learn that the season has changed? Compare and contrast the colors the illustrator uses to show winter and spring.
- Read "How to Grow Your Own Wintergarden" at the end of the book. What do the plants need to help them grow? How do the girl and her mother provide these things to the plants in their wintergarden? Explain how the author and illustrator reveal the "flavor" and "nutrition" the plants offer.
- The illustrator uses watercolor throughout the book. Watercolor allows light to shine through. Discuss examples of watercolor in the book. Why is it a good medium to capture winter?

Guide created by Pat Scales, retired school librarian and independent consultant, Greenville, South Carolina.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Photo credit: Ashleigh Taylor



**Janet Fox** is a former children's teacher and an author of picture, middle grade, and young adult books. She is the author of the award-winning middle grade non-fiction book *Get Organized Without Losing It*, *The Faithful Forgiven*, and *The Charmed Children of Rookskill Castle*, as well as its companion book, *The Artifact Hunters*. She is also the author of the Picture Book *Wintergarden*, which received four starred reviews. Janet lives with her husband and son in Montana. Visit her at [JanetSFox.com](http://JanetSFox.com).

Photo credit: Qing Gao



**Jasu Hu** was born in Hunan, China. She worked as an illustrator in China for six years while studying Visual Communication at Tsinghua University (Beijing). After finishing her MFA in Illustration at MICA (USA), she moved to New York and started working as a freelance illustrator. She is the illustrator of *Wintergarden* by Janet Fox, and *All You Need* by Howard Schwartz, which was called "a beautiful, poetic look at what one needs to live a good life" by *School Library Journal* in a starred review. Check her out at [JasuHuArt.com](http://JasuHuArt.com).

