

# One Little Lot

The 1-2-3s of an Urban Garden

## ACTIVITY GUIDE

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Diane Mullen  
Illustrated by Oriol Vidal  
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### About the Book

Count the ways this urban community unites to clean up one abandoned little lot and transform it into a thriving community garden. It all starts with two helping hands, a visitor who sees potential and gets people together to take action. As the garden grows, neighbors and strangers become friends, eventually sharing in a special feast with their harvest bounty.

### About the Author

Diane Mullen is the author of the YA novel *Tagged*. *One Little Lot* is her first picture book, based loosely on her life in the bustling city of Minneapolis, where she shares in a community garden with her neighbors. Diane also works at the renowned Walker Art Center.

### About the Illustrator

Oriol Vidal is an illustrator of many books for children, including the *Time Jumpers* and *Hello Genius* series. He is also a storyboard artist. Oriol lives in Barcelona, Spain.



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## Start a Discussion!

### Before reading:

- What is a garden?
- Have you ever worked in a garden? What is it like?
- What kinds of gardens are there? (flower, vegetable, herb, stone, etc.)

### After reading:

- Where is the garden in this book?
- Have you seen gardens in a city before? Where?
- Why do you think this book starts with bees?
- Let's look through the book again together. Where do you see bees in this book?
- If you planned a garden, what would you grow?



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## Plan a Garden!

Use the dot paper below to plan your very own garden!

What do you want to grow? How much? Would you like long skinny rows or square plots? Maybe a fountain in the middle? The choice is yours!

A grid of 13 rows and 13 columns of dots, intended for planning a garden layout. The dots are arranged in a regular grid pattern, with 13 dots in each row and 13 dots in each column.

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## Start a Sprout!

### You Will Need:

- a sunny windowsill
  - a paper cup (small sizes work best)
  - potting soil
  - water
  - a packet of seeds
  - a pot to transfer your sprout
- Fill your paper cup most of the way with potting soil. Leave about half an inch of space at the top (to make watering your sprout easier).
  - Pick a seed (or multiple seeds—check your packet for instructions) and push it about one knuckle deep into the soil.
  - Moisten your soil with a spoonful or two of water.
  - Leave the cup on a sunny windowsill and check the soil every day; if it gets lots of sun, the soil will dry out faster and it will need more water. Try to keep the soil moist but not soggy.
  - Just like kids go to school when they're big enough to leave preschool, plants need to move to a bigger pot when they've outgrown their starter cup. When your plant has sprouted and is big enough to need more room, get an adult's help to fill your pot with potting soil and move the sprout. Yay! Your sprout graduated!

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## Word Search

G	A	R	D	E	N	P	S	O
W	O	R	G	E	H	L	O	N
D	O	Y	N	U	Z	A	I	E
S	E	E	D	Q	X	N	L	B
I	P	G	R	O	W	T	E	E
B	E	E	S	E	Z	E	R	U
L	K	B	O	Q	S	C	G	H
G	R	L	I	U	J	Q	R	J
S	P	R	O	U	T	E	N	R

BEES  
GARDEN  
GROW

ONE  
PLANT  
SEED

SOIL  
SPROUT  
TEN

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### Where's the Garden?

Bumblebee is lost! Help it find the garden:

