



From Felicita Sala comes this exquisite sequel to the bestselling *Lunch at 10 Pomegranate Street*.

In each garden, someone is tending to their produce. Maria is picking asparagus, Ramon's mum is watering the cucumbers, and a gaggle of kids are eating cherries fresh from the tree and even wearing some as earrings!

Meet the many people of Fleurville, delight in their harvests, learn their recipes, and find comfort in the cycle of the seasons.

A Year in Fleurville is a cookbook, a mini guide to gardening, and a picture book rolled into one. This glorious celebration of community is filled with recipes from all over the world and with simple instructions perfect for young chefs.

TEACHING NOTES

A YEAR IN FLEURVILLE

Title *A Year in Fleurville: recipes from balconies, rooftops, and gardens*

Author/illustrator Felicita Sala

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community
gardening

sharing

cooking
traditional foods
multiculturalism

DISCUSSION TOPICS

Close reading of the cover

Critical engagement: How many people can you see? Who do you think these people are? What are they doing? How are they feeling? How do you know? Now read the title: *A Year in Fleurville: recipes from balconies, rooftops, and gardens*. Based on this title and the cover illustration, what sort of book do you think this will be?

Personal enjoyment: What's your favourite thing about this cover? (For example, the colour palette, the characters, the houses, the plants, the curly text, or the texture of the paper.) How does this favourite element make you feel?

Place names: Fleurville is a made-up town, and it is the setting of this story. Can you think of a big country town in Australia that ends with '-ville'? (Townsville.) Can you guess what the suffix '-ville' might mean? It comes from the French word *ville*, which means 'city' or 'town'. In French, *fleur* means 'flower' – so Fleurville is flower town! Can you come up with some imaginary towns using the suffix '-ville'?



Who is this book for?

Now, open the book and read the first dedication: 'To Sofia, Chiara, and Simone, and to all the children who spent too much time inside their homes.' Have you felt like the lockdowns have meant spending too much time inside your home/s? Then this book is dedicated to you!



ACTIVITIES

Make a harvesting guide

Leaf through the book and look for the headings 'Spring', 'Summer', 'Autumn', and 'Winter'. Observe the fruit and vegetables that are growing at these different times of year. Now, without peaking at the final page spread, work as a class to compile a list of the fruit and vegetables that are ready to harvest in each of these seasons, using words or pictures for this produce (or both!). Once you've finished your list, turn to the final page spread and compare your list to Felicity's.



Grow a sweet potato plant

Sweet potatoes can grow in water alone and make beautiful leafy indoor plants. The sprouts can also be planted in the garden to grow a whole new crop of sweet potatoes!

Materials:

- A sweet potato
- A jar that's a bit wider than the sweet potato
- Tap water
- Four or five toothpicks

Sprouting:

Stick the toothpicks into the sweet potato about halfway around it, lengthways, with about $\frac{1}{4}$ of the toothpick stuck into the flesh and the rest poking out.

Fill your jar with water (about $\frac{3}{4}$ full).

Place your sweet potato in the jar (pointy end down). The toothpicks should balance on the edge of the jar and stop your sweet potato from falling into it entirely.

Over the coming days, as the sweet potato drinks the water, refill the jar. Empty all the water out and replace it with fresh water every couple of weeks to stop your plant from getting stinky.

Growing sweet potatoes in the garden:

Wait until your sweet potato has grown some nice long sprouts.

Snap each sprout off the sweet potato right at the base. Remove three or four of the bottom leaves from each sprout.

Place your sprouts in a glass of water with each spot where you removed a leaf submerged.

Once your sprouts have grown roots, they're ready to plant in the garden and will grow a crop of sweet potatoes.



MEET FELICITA SALA



Felicita Sala is a self-taught illustrator and painter. She graduated in philosophy from the University of Western Australia. She has illustrated many picture books, contributed her art to magazines and newspapers, and has also worked on papercut stop-motion animations. One of her books was included in *The New York Times*' Best Illustrated Picture Books of 2018, and in 2020 she won the Premio Andersen award in Italy for best illustrator. Felicity lives in Rome with her husband, Gianluca, and their daughter, Nina.

