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Pick, Pull, snap!: Where Once a Flower Bloomed

Irene Halliday

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Schaefer, Lola M.. *Pick, Pull, Snap! : Where Once a Flower Bloomed*. Illustrated by George, Lindsay Barrett. Greenwillow Books, 2003. ISBN 0688178340. \$15.99. 20 pp.

Reviewer: Irene Halliday;

Reading Level: Primary;

Rating: Excellent;

Genre: Contemporary realistic fiction;

Subject: Plants--Reproduction--Juvenile literature; Flowers--Juvenile literature; Fruit--Juvenile literature; Book--Review;

"The spring sun shines bright. At the trellis, a cool breeze chills noses and shakes free the pollen inside early, white flowers. Deep in the flowers, seeds the size of freckles grow inside a thin, green skin. Rains wash the dried flower petals away, and the seeds plump. On a spring day, pick... [opening the folded cut-away portion of the page] handfuls of pea pods from the vines where once a flower bloomed." The scientific "magic" that transforms a lovely flower into a tasty fruit or vegetable is celebrated in *Pick, Pull, Snap! : Where Once a Flower Bloomed*. Author Lola M. Schaefer is not only an experienced writer of science books for children, but is also an experienced home gardener in rural Indiana. Her excited interest in the blossoming, pollinating, ripening and harvesting phases of plants infuses the almost poetic text. The wide outdoor world of the garden is brought indoors with Lindsay Barrett George's bright, colorful, sometimes larger-than-life guache illustrations, on pages which fold out to reveal each fruit or vegetable ready for harvest. The size and clarity of its art, coupled with an engaging text, make this book a perfect choice for a gardening or science read-aloud for school classroom or library story hour. At home, parents could use it to build excitement for spring planting and summer or fall harvest.

To accommodate the folding and unfolding of pages, the paper is a little more sturdy. A glossary and planting instructions for each fruit or vegetable discussed, along with an illustrated seasonal calendar further enhance the text and illustrations.