

Sophie's Squash by Pat Zietlow Miller

GRADES: PreK-1

SYNOPSIS: On a trip to the farmers' market, Sophie chooses a butternut squash, but instead of letting her mom cook it, she names it Bernice. From then on, Sophie brings Bernice everywhere, despite her parents' gentle warnings that Bernice will soon begin to rot. As winter nears, Sophie does start to notice changes.... What's a girl to do when the squash she loves is in trouble?

ACTIVITIES:

- Discuss and draw the life cycle of a squash.
- Explore decomposition. Place some favorite fruits and vegetables in a clear plastic container with a top and watch what happens.
- Ask a local farmer to donate a butternut squash for each student. Have them draw a face on the squash, name their squash, and act out some of the activities Sophie did with Bernice.

Pair this book with:

Sophie's Squash Goes to School
by Pat Zietlow Miller

SYNOPSIS: In this sequel to *Sophie's Squash*, Sophie takes Bernice's children, Bonnie and Baxter, with her when she goes to school for the first time. Sophie has no interest in making friends that aren't squash. This gently humorous read-aloud proves that making friends, just like growing squash, takes time.

ACTIVITIES:

- Ask students to brainstorm the best ways to make friends.
- Act out parts of the story using butternut squash.

New Jersey Learning Standards

Science: PreK: 5.1.1-5, 5.3.1-4 K:LS1.C 1:LS1.A

Language Arts: PreK: RL.PK.1,2,4,7 K:RL.K.1-10 1:RL.1.1-4,6

