

# 2021 AGRICULTURE LITERACY WEEK: TIPS AND TOOLS

**Participation Options:** Current restrictions may prevent volunteers from physically visiting schools to read aloud as in years past. However, Agriculture in the Classroom believes that volunteers can still maintain their vital link to schools and connect local children to agriculture by participating in the event in different ways.

*Donation:* You may choose to mail or drop off the book bundle(s) to the school/classroom(s) of your choice. We recommend contacting the teacher or principal ahead of time so that they are looking for the delivery. With many teachers working virtually from home, this will alert them that a package will be coming to their attention. Further, please note that many schools may have new guidelines this year for the dropping off of materials. Some districts may require materials to be dropped off at the central office to be disseminated internally.

*Virtual Reading:* Depending upon your comfort with the format and internet connectivity, you may choose to conduct a virtual reading of the book. Please note that copyright laws prevent the reading of the book and posting it online in an open forum (such as on YouTube or Facebook Live). You are, however, permitted to read the book online in a “closed” environment such as Zoom or WebEx (many schools will have their own programs). With this option the teacher would provide you with a meeting link to the preferred online meeting platform and you would read the book using your webcam or phone. When choosing the option, we highly recommend practicing with a friend or family member first so that you can gain familiarity with the platform and practice how to hold the book so that the pictures are visible through the camera to the students.

As with previous years, we recommend having props that you can hold up to show the students. The props may include any type of show-and-tell that relates either to the book or to your unique connection to agriculture.

[How Did That Get in My Lunchbox?](#) is full of fun and interesting facts for kids about how their favorite foods make it from the farm to their lunchbox. However, for younger students you may choose to highlight specific sections, perhaps selecting 1-2 specific foods and shortening the others.

After reading, we recommend donating the book bundle to the classroom. This will ensure that it remains a part of the classroom library to impact children in the years to come. Please review the donation notes above for special considerations this year.

**Book Bundle:** This year, each book ordered will be part of a book bundle. The bundle will consist of a comprehensive Educator’s Guide that teachers can use to expand upon the topics covered in the book as well as a classroom poster. Additionally, AITC will be including online multimedia that can be used to accompany the book. These online resources will be especially useful to those classrooms that are learning virtually. They can be found on the Agriculture Literacy page of the AITC website, [www.agintheclass.org](http://www.agintheclass.org).

**Collaboration:** Because of the popularity of this program, we encourage you to collaborate with other agriculture organizations in your area to coordinate reading and encourage donations to as many different classrooms as possible.