

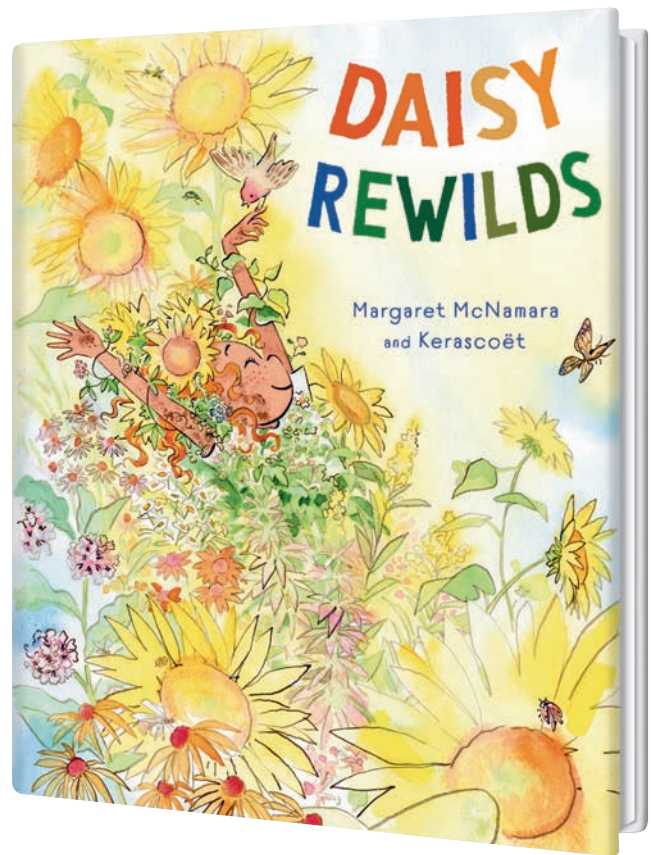
DAISY REWILDS ACTIVITIES

About the Book

Daisy was born with a green thumb. As an infant, she composted her own baby food. As a toddler, she slept on a bed of leaves. Now she's embarking on her most important experiment: She'll plant herself on her manicured front lawn, stay put, and let nature take over. What happens is a blooming miracle.

With a little help from expert gardener Auntie Betsy, Daisy thrives. Sunflowers grow in her hair, moss grows between her toes, hummingbirds buzz in her bee balm. Soon Daisy's front yard is a haven for native grasses and flowers, for pollinating insects, for birds, even for lowly worms. And that's when her real work begins.

In this funny and whimsical story about restoring natural habitats, one tenacious girl passionately leads her own conservation efforts, helping the land heal itself and teaching her community about the importance of nurturing wild places.



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Before Reading

- Look at the cover and the title. What do you notice?
What do you think this story will be about?
- What do you think the title means? What does the word *rewilds* make you think of?
- What does nature mean to you? How does being in nature make you feel?



Helpful words to know

Biodiversity: The variety of animal and plant life in any environment is known as biodiversity. The term can apply to a small portion of a particular rainforest, the entire Earth, or any habitat in between.

Ecosystem: An ecosystem is made up of all of the living and nonliving things in an area.

Rewilding: a conservation approach that aims to restore natural ecosystems by allowing natural processes to shape damaged habitats, and to then reintroduce native species, ultimately creating wilder, more biodiverse landscapes.

While Reading

- Which insects, plants, and animals do you recognize? Are there any plants that you don't recognize? Make lists as you read.
- Does Daisy's rewilding remind you of anything you've seen in your life?

After Reading

- How would you describe Daisy at the start of this story? How would you describe Daisy at the end of this story?
- What has changed in Daisy's neighborhood? How do you know? Make a list of the changes, pointing out details in the text and/or illustrations for evidence.
- According to the author's note, the land becomes more diverse and healthier through rewilding. Imagine what would happen if just one of the birds, plants, or insects in the story were gone forever. How would that affect the ecosystem?





EXTENSION ACTIVITIES



- Do research about the plants native to your area—particularly plants that are friendly to pollinators. Make a list of flowers you'd like to include in your garden, along with rationale for why you'd include them, considering their effect on the ecosystem. You can use the reproducible activity shown here as a template for your rewilding!
- Rewild yourself!
 - Spend more time outside.
 - Go on nature walks or design a nature scavenger hunt in any green space.
 - Identify a few activities you currently do indoors that you could do outdoors.
 - Make a big salad with vegetables and fruits that are native to your region. Invite your community to partake.
 - Get the community together and, with adults taking the lead, make and enjoy a campfire—a wild skill!
- Make a nature mobile and bring the outside inside.

Supplies:

 - Twine, string, yarn, fishing line, or thread
 - A thick dry stick, about 6 to 12 inches long, to serve as your base
 - Fun things you can find outside, which will vary depending on your ecosystem.

Directions:

- Spend some time finding the right stick to serve as your base. The stick should be dry and the largest item on your mobile.
 - If it's not dry, use sandpaper to sand off any bark and allow it to dry completely. (This could take a few weeks.)
- Go on a nature walk and collect dry natural objects that you'd like to bring indoors for decoration. (Fallen leaves, twigs, pebbles, dried flowers, shells, etc.)
- Find the point at which your stick can balance, without dipping too far to either side. That's the center!
- Cut about 12 inches of string and create a half hitch knot at the center point of your stick. (The remaining length of string will be used to hang the stick once it's finished.)
- Pick four of your objects to hang (or more depending on your stick!).
- Cut lengths of string—about 12 inches each.
- With one end of the string, create a knot around your object. Tie the opposite end to your stick, so your object hangs vertically from the stick.
 - Objects like rocks might require that a shorter, second piece of string be wrapped around itself and used to hold it in place.
- Repeat until your mobile is finished.
- Use the string, at the top of your mobile, to tie it to a hook or door handle, or another fastener on a wall. Cut any string that's leftover.



WHAT ARE YOU PLANTING?

Directions: Do research on native plants in your area, noting how they help the ecosystem. Choose at least three native plants. Write about why you would plant them in the planner below. Then draw what your garden will look like.

Plant Name	Details About the Plant	How Does It Help?

ENVISION YOUR GARDEN

