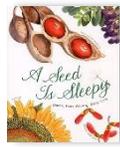


FIRST GRADE SUGGESTIONS: WHEN TO TEACH THE THEMES

A SEED IS SLEEPY
By Dianna Aston



Theme:	When to Teach:	Explanation of Theme:
<p>CREATION IS A GIFT</p>	<p>Fall</p> <p>Feast of St. Francis of Assisi (Oct. 4th)</p> <p>Thanksgiving Holiday</p> <p>Spring</p> <p>Easter</p>	<p>All of creation is a gift from God to mankind. Through the lens of the <i>Theology of the Body</i>, we see God’s creation (animals, nature, each other, etc.) not as scary, but as <i>a loving gift from God</i>.</p> <p>One of the simplest prayers we can say to God is “Thank you.” There is a beautiful transformation that happens when we begin to view the world as a loving gift from God. Every raindrop, rainbow, and bird’s song is realized for what it is: <i>God’s burning desire to give good gifts to us because he loves us</i>.</p> <p>God not only gives us his beautiful creations as a gift, he gives us the ability to create. When we create artwork, poetry and music we mirror God’s creative nature. Moms and dads image God in a special way by having babies. Procreation is a special way that God allows us to participate in the continuation of his creation!</p>
<p>ORDER, DESIGN & MEANING</p>	<p>Correspond with science lesson on: life cycles, plants, seasons, weather or the water cycle</p> <p>When reading about the days of creation in the 1st creation account (Genesis 1-2:3)</p> <p>Spring</p>	<p>There is a natural order and rhythm to God’s creation. We can see this order within nature. A great number of seeds reveal themselves at just the right time after a period of patient waiting. Some seeds float through the air, some fall like helicopters, and some float on the water. As we see such diversity and beauty, we begin to glimpse the purpose of design in creation and we can only wonder at its Creator.</p>

Theme:	When to Teach:	Explanation of Theme:
<p>ORDER, DESIGN & MEANING (continued)</p>	<p>Rogation Days (April 25th and the three days before Ascension Thursday are days of prayer and fasting to ask God for mercy, protection and a bountiful harvest.)</p>	<p>In the first creation account, God creates in a step-by-step rhythm over seven days. John Paul II notes that God “seems to halt” before creating human beings. This shows that humans are the highest of God’s creation. Humans are set apart from the rest of creation as being created in the image and likeness of God.</p>
<p>Generosity and Fruitfulness (Creative Love)</p>	<p>Fall (Maple trees produce thousands of helicopter seeds each fall)</p> <p>Feast of St. Isadore Patron of Farmers (May 15th St. Isadore was known for his great love of prayer. Isidore attended Mass daily and it is said the angels worked the fields for him while he prayed. Isidore was also known for inviting the poor to his home for food. Once there was not enough food for everyone and his wife asked him to check the pot again. When he looked again there was enough food for everyone.)</p>	<p>God is love. Love involves giving, receiving, and bearing new life. The Trinity’s beautiful exchange of giving, receiving, and bearing new life echoes throughout all of creation.</p> <p>If you look closely, you can see the reflection of the Trinity’s beautiful exchange of giving, receiving, and bearing new life within creation. Much of nature participates in a giving and receiving that is life-giving (or fruitful). Plants receive carbon dioxide from humans and give oxygen in return. This giving and receiving produces a sustained cycle of life.</p> <p>The most prominent reflection of God’s nature of giving, receiving, and bearing new life is found within the family. The husband and wife give their lives to one another in marriage. This union often brings new life into the world (babies).</p>
<p>BEAUTY</p>	<p>Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Dec. 12th) She appeared to Juan Diego on Dec. 9, 1531. The bishop asked that he provide proof of Mary’s appearance. On Dec 12th Mary invited Juan Diego to pick flowers and arrange them in his cloak. When he went before the bishop a beautiful image of Mary formed on his cloak. His cloak is still on display today.</p> <p>Spring</p> <p>Month of May (The month of May is dedicated to Mary.)</p>	<p>When mom bakes cookies, we are drawn into the kitchen by the sweet smell. In like manner, God fills the world with beauty as a sweet enticement. He desires to draw us to himself by his beautiful creation. Authentic beauty should draw us closer to God, who is the fullness of Beauty.</p> <p>Children often seek to obtain autographs of their heroes. Because God’s signature is on his creation, every rock, seed, or leaf collection a young child gathers is in effect, an autograph collection of God the Creator.</p>

Theme:	When to Teach:	Explanation of Theme:
<p style="text-align: center;">ORIGINAL SOLITUDE</p>	<p>Feast of St. Therese of Lisieux (Oct. 1st) St. Therese is known as the “Little Flower of Jesus” because she described herself as a flower in the garden of the Lord. She believed each person was a different kind of flower enhancing the beauty and splendor of the garden in which God delights.</p> <p>Fall</p> <p>Spring</p>	<p>Adam was alone in the garden with God before original sin. His experience of being alone or “solitude” is called ORIGINAL SOLITUDE.</p> <p>Through ORIGINAL SOLITUDE, Man learns he is created for a unique relationship with God:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adam is given the task of tilling and keeping the garden. This is very bodily work and is made possible by the fact that Adam has a body different from the animals. • By naming the animals Adam learns he is different from the rest of creation. • God commands man to not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Only man is given the ability to choose between good and evil. <p>Adam learns he is set apart from the rest of creation because he is a person created in the image and likeness of God. He is not made to be alone. He is created for a relationship with God and other humans.</p>