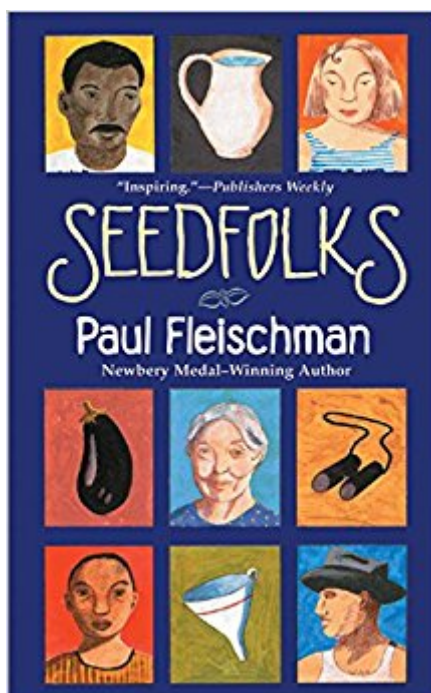


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# Seedfolks



## Synopsis

Newbery Medal-winning *Seedfolks* from Paul Fleischman tells thirteen stories from diverse perspectives—•young and old, immigrant and native, haunted and hopeful. A fractured neighborhood unites with just a few seeds, turning a drab empty lot in Cleveland into beautiful green garden. *Seedfolks* has been chosen as a state- and city-wide read in communities across the country for its inspiring message of unity. Kim begins the garden, planting a few lima beans to connect with her father who died when she was a baby in Vietnam. Then Tomás, a farmer from Guatemala, gains purpose when he teaches the neighborhood children how to plant. Soon curious neighbors join in and together they grow a beautiful garden. With each bean sprout and cucumber blossom the residents of Gibbs Street find hope and meaning in their little green paradise. As the *Christian Science Monitor* noted, "The size of this slim volume belies the profound message of hope it contains."

## Book Information

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Best Sellers Rank: #1,023 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Short Stories #1 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Emigration & Immigration #3 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Values & Virtues

## Customer Reviews

Sometimes, even in the middle of ugliness and neglect, a little bit of beauty will bloom.

Award-winning writer Paul Fleischman dazzles us with this truth in *Seedfolks*--a slim novel that bursts with hope. Wasting not a single word, Fleischman unfolds a story of a blighted neighborhood transformed when a young girl plants a few lima beans in an abandoned lot. Slowly, one by one, neighbors are touched and stirred to action as they see tendrils poke through the dirt. Hispanics,

Haitians, Koreans, young, and old begin to turn the littered lot into a garden for the whole community. A gift for hearts of all ages, this gentle, timeless story will delight anyone in need of a sprig of inspiration.

Grade 4 Up. As a vacant lot is transformed into a community garden, these vignettes give glimpses into the lives of the fledgling gardeners. As satisfying as harvesting produce straight from the vine. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc.

My grandparents, and my parents, read Aesop's Fables to us, and many many other easy-to-grasp Good Example Tales. THIS book, set in a slum of exhausted people, working doggedly just to survive, provides a new setting for a familiar Universal Truth: Everything you do COUNTS, one way or another. It is short, pocket-sized, simple, and CLEAR: EVERYTHING each of us does, ANYTHING we do, will be seen, and may even be copied. The little girl who clears away a tiny piece of a slum-dump-yard and PLANTS FIVE LIMA BEANS is the original angel for a slowly emerging neighborhood garden. Each little space is silently claimed by an individual who has seen hers, taken note, found some inner Hope, done the Work, and Seized the Day. Each paltry plot is personal, the fruit of Quiet but Persistent Attention - and a HUGE PERSONAL VICTORY over despair. I am giving a copy to each of our extended-family Families for my own 79th Birthday, in remembrance of our shared forebears, and in confidence for our individual lives. Plant and Cultivate your OWN Garden (although I will grow tomatoes rather than LIMA beans -- it's MY garden, after all!)

First off, this is an interesting, touching story about a working class community neighborhood coming together and creating a garden for themselves , building a stronger community in the process. If you're just a reader or an adult buying this for a child, that's reason enough to check out this book:)If you're a teacher, though, this book is especially helpful.I have taught this book in my adult ESL classes two or three times now. It's a really great book for diverse classrooms, as it represents a lot of different cultures (Black, Guatemalan, Korean, Mexican,Vietnamese etc). "Seedfolks" organization makes it ideal for new readers , also, since each chapter is only a few pages long, but still gives a great portrait of each character. Teachers can incorporate lots of fun outdoor activities with this as well, or just grow seeds indoors, if you are teaching more than one subject and want to tie in science or social studies.

This book is a masterpiece. Each chapter is a wonderful short story in itself, a study of individual

characters and circumstances, and how they relate to the growing garden. The book is so short, yet every page is rich. Seedfolks addresses big issues like poverty, immigration, racism, and community in accessible language. I used it as a read-aloud for my 6th grade class, and students responded to the characters and stories powerfully. We were able to have honest conversations about these big, scary issues, using the book as a launching point. This is one I will keep in my library and go back to read again and again.

We used this short novel as a basis for our EFL camp in Poland. Everyone seemed to like it, teens and adults. It also provided many avenues for discussion, which is perfect for EFL teachers.

I loved this book, but after reading the 1 and 2 star reviews, I would say that it is definitely a book that will appeal more to people who are already interested in the ideas of cultural diversity and community gardening. Some reviewers criticized the book as stereotyping ethnic groups, but I think that's a bit like saying that Huckleberry Finn is racist--maybe the representation of the dialects won't feel 100% accurate to someone who is familiar with the accent being represented, but to get hung up on that would be to miss the entire point of the book, which is that there is more to a person than his or her race. Other reviewers criticized the fact that some rather tough issues are touched on in a book that's supposed to be for children. To that, I have to say that I am of the strong opinion that kids shouldn't be sheltered from the reality of the world; in fact, the world's cruelty often affects children in spite of our efforts to shield them from it, and to hide one's eyes from that fact only does more harm. Instead, kids should be taught that there is hope in the world in spite of the pain, and I think the book does a good job of conveying that message.

This was a very easy read. I bought it for my son so that he had a copy for home -- he was reading it in school. Loved the story!

Great book to read with my kids.

It ok. I think people can relate to it but its can of boring. You hear over and over again people come over fears and joining a community garden. It's just boring to me.

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Seedfolks

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