

The Amazing Idea of You  
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Bloomsbury



**Charlotte Sullivan Wild**  
**Where STEM Meets HeART**  
TLA 2019

**SUMMARY:**

Hidden inside every living thing is an idea. That idea can sprout, sing, wriggle, and take wing . . . into something amazing! But nothing compares to the ideas growing inside of you!

**AGE LEVEL:**

2 - 6+

Extends older with: poetry, science, environmental & social action, & creative process

**THEME/ LESSON/ STANDARD CONNECTIONS:**

Growth	Trees	Human Growth & Development
New Life & Cycles	Apples (Orchards, Grafting)	Generations & Legacy
Seasons	Seed, Seedling, Tree, Fruit	Long-Term Goals/ Efforts/ Perseverance
Spring, Sprouting	Egg, Bird	Our Place as Part of Nature
Summer Growth	Tadpole, Frog	Positive Environmental Action
Fall, Harvest	Caterpillar, Butterfly	Creativity
Winter, Dormancy	Gosling, Goose	IDEAS
Habitat	Metamorphosis	Process (Growth, Creative, Taking Steps)
Physical Change	Migration	Music, Dance, Art, Play, Poetry
Contributions	(Pollination Implied)	“All About Me” Activities
Human Diversity	Biodiversity	“What Will I Be?” / Exploring Ideas Now

**IS THIS STEM? OR...**

This book is science. And poetry. And Inspiration. It explores how IDEAS grow in nature and in us. And with effort, learning, and time, we can grow ideas to share with the world!

**WHY the mash-up?**

Because nature is inspiring. We are nature. With every breath and bite, with every cell we grow or shed, we participate in this amazing life ever transforming around us. How can we not respond with our hearts? Our ideas? Our actions? If we are amazed by our home and neighbors—be they human, plant, or animal—then we will grow into people who *act*, who plant in love, who tend with hope, who preserve with a vision of what might be.

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## QUICK IDEAS! (Variety of Ages)

Find handouts, activities, and more bonus material for kids at: <https://charlotteswild.com/>

- On the Website:
  - **Activity sheets** inspired by the book (matching young/ mature animals; imagining who one might become, what one might do; and more.)
  - **A paste or sticker activity: Life stages of a seed → mature apple tree**
  - **How to make a book dummy** (with a short video)
- Act It Out!  
Kids can act out the growing seed, hatching bird, or the dances they have inside!
- Thinking About / Drawing Growth  
How were kids different when they were babies? How did they act?  
What have they learned? How are they physically different now?  
How will they continue to change? What might they do or become?  
How are they practicing, growing, changing, exploring right NOW as they grow?

Extension: [www.charlotteswild.com](http://www.charlotteswild.com) has images of what the author was up to when she was a kid. What are kids doing, enjoying now that could grow into something they'll do as grown ups? They could draw pictures of now and in the future.

- Planting Seeds  
As a class, take on a growing project for your school. How does growing plants help the earth, animals and people to stay healthy? How does it create homes/ food?

Or, brainstorm together little steps that one person or family or class can take that might grow into something helpful to others/ to our environment.

### *Seeds of Kindness/ Change*

Another variation is to consider what kids want to “grow” in their communities—such as places to laugh together, safe spaces, more fair rules, kindness. What seeds can they plant today to get this IDEA growing? Make plans, research, share ideas, and get to work! Report back. Post the progress and results! (#AmazingIdeaOfYou)

A school, class, or library could have an IDEA ORCHARD board where students/ classes report what they've planted (literally or figuratively) and what's growing.

- Poetry Prompts  
What is the secret life behind or inside of something?  
What animals are you like...when...? What plant or natural feature?  
Chain poems: Because of X, Y. Because of Y, Z...  
Time Flow Poems: Yesterday “A.” Today “B.” Tomorrow / Someday “C.”

### ***What other ideas are inside of you?***

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