Book: Seedfolks

Reviewed by: Literacy Class

Level of Difficulty: Medium

My thoughts about the book and its suitability for my group:

Seedfolks is made up of several short, interesting biographies of a group of people living in a rundown apartment building in Cleveland, Ohio. The thread of the biographies is the development of a community garden that brings the tenants together as real neighbors. The garden creates a reason for the people to talk to one another, and to show kindness, helpfulness, happiness, friendliness, and understanding. Just as the garden grows, people grow to see their neighbors as human beings.

Students’ reactions to the book:

My students loved the book. One person described the story as an American immigrant quilt. Each patch gives the reader a snapshot of childhood and adult immigrant experiences and city life in America. Stereotypes disappear and are replaced with the shared wisdom of one another’s experiences.

Tips for other tutors who may want to use this book:

Although Seedfolks is only 87 pages, the book is classified as “medium” difficulty because there is not an A-to-B-to C plot; it is character-driven, with little description or action. The sentence structure could be difficult for some students. It might be helpful to read certain paragraphs in class, then discuss the thought being conveyed.