

The Thank You Dish

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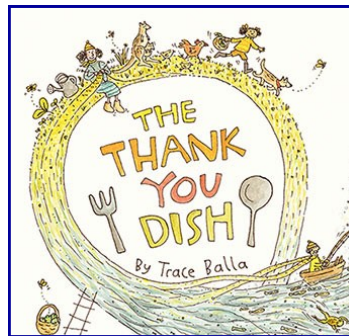
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It's dinnertime at Grace's place.

'Thank you, alpaca,' says Grace.

'Alpaca?' asks Mama. 'Why would you thank an alpaca?'

A playful mealtime conversation becomes a joyful act of giving thanks. From the multi-award-winning creator of Rivertime, Rockhopping and Shine.



Themes:

- Giving thanks
- Gratitude
- Local produce
- Growing and sharing food

Discussion Questions:

- Does your family grow your own food? If so, what things do you produce? If no, do you know anyone else that does?
- Do you think that the food that is home grown is different to what you might buy from the shop? Why or why not?
- Do you buy produce from anybody else in your local area, like Grace and her mum did from Suki? Make a list of all the different ways this type of activity contributes to the local community.
- What are some of the things that you need to consider when planting/growing your own garden?
- Re-read the story, counting how many things or people were thanked, and who contributed to Grace's dinner.
- Do you think we are thankful enough for the things we eat?
- Have you ever thought about how many people contribute to making a plate of food?
- As a class, choose a dinner that you might eat. Go through each ingredient and think about all the steps and processes it took to get it to you. Think of the growing, the packaging, transport etc. Discuss if this process has made the children realise how involved providing food really is. Has it made them more thankful?
- Do you think it is important to share meal times with your family?

Activities:

- Use modelling clay to make a diorama of all the different foods that you can grow and produce.
- You may like to grow your own class vegetable garden, with the children being the ones responsible for looking after it. If space is an issue, you could keep it as simple as an indoor herb garden or you may have the room to plant a more substantial one.