

Activities to Pair with Books and Music

For parents and adults:

How to use this guide: Please use these ideas in ways that work best for your children. The Concepts listed and Bible Readings are for grown-up background material... to support you. Reading aloud the book together, or watching on YouTube, creates special experiences especially when the Wondering Questions are used. Enjoy together!

Concepts: Resilience, Courage, Compassion, Justice

Age Range: 4 - 8

Bible or Quaker wisdom: [Galatians 6:9](#) ESV / And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

The Book or Music: *Lucky Beans* by Becky Birtha, art by Nicole Tadgell, Albert Whitman & Co. c. 2010. Like so many people during the Great Depression of the 1930s, Marshall Loman's dad has lost his job. There's little money, but there are plenty of beans-in fact, Ma cooks them for supper every single night! Beans start looking better when Marshall sees the contest posted in the furniture store window. HOW MANY BEANS ARE IN THE JAR? WIN THIS BRAND NEW SEWING MACHINE! Ma needs that sewing machine-but how can Lomans possibly guess right? Then Marshall remembers something he learned in arithmetic class. Becky Birtha's engaging story, based on her grandmother's memories of Depression years in the African American community, is illustrated by Nicole Tadgell's expressive paintings. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rk4xc8w9jqI>

Wondering Questions: Wondering Questions give children an opportunity to reflect on the story, make it their own, and use their creative thinking. Wondering Questions do not have right and wrong answers; they encourage imagination and deep reflection.

I wonder what part of the story you like best?

I wonder where you would put yourself in the story?

I wonder what suggestions this story has for you and/or our family?

Activities: Play with dry or liquid measuring cups to guess equal amounts. If you don't have measuring cups use empty cans and jars with measurements on the labels. Using a mix, make something that requires using your new measuring skills. If you like to make recipes from "scratch", make a treat for the family. Create a guessing game just like in the story.