

LITERACY learning springboards

Pappus

The First English Gardening Book – descriptive use of language when watering plants

The Gardener's Labyrinth by Thomas Hill, 1577

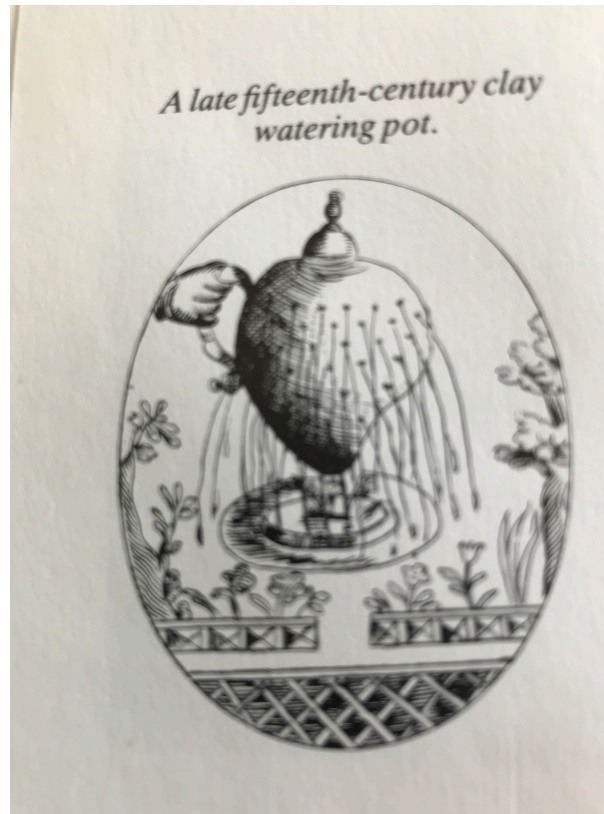
Aim: Pupils take inspiration for descriptive language from this old English book, and they enjoy a fun and practical watering activity.

The Gardener's Labyrinth was the first popular gardening book published in English in 1577. It's full of practical tips, such as this advice on watering:

*The common watering pot for the garden beds
with us, hath a narrow neck,
big belly, somewhat large bottom, and full of
little holes...gently sprinkle
forth the water...as by a breast ...which shall
greatly prosper
the tender plants coming up...otherwise by the
hasty drowning with water [the plants]
are much annoyed, and put in hazard of
perishing.*

Activity:

- Pupils practice watering using a range of watering cans, including 'home-made' such as those described in the Design Technology Learning Springboard 'Design, Make and Test A Watering Device'.
- They aim to 'gently prosper' the plants, rather than 'annoy' them so they risk 'perishing'! and they can learn why this is so important.
- Pupils develop similar descriptions for a range of gardening tools.



Resources:

- Watering cans or recycled plastic bottles with holes in the lids
- Gardening tools
- Extracts from The Gardener's Labyrinth

More springboards/sources:

- Design Technology Learning Springboard 'Design, Make and Test A Watering Device'.
- Science Learning Springboards - there are several relating to growing plants.
- RHS website - school gardening plant growing information sheets.

Key vocabulary:

Hath, perishing, prosper, tender, hasty.

Success Criteria

- ✓ I can recognise and understand some Old English words.
- ✓ I can use practical skills to experiment with gardening tools



RHS School gardening



Gardener's Labyrinth

