



*Eric Carle*

**The Tiny  
Seed**



presents . . .

**Kids Who Love Nature**

Nature offers boundless mystery and beauty, if only we will slow down long enough to notice. This story follows the progress of a tiny flower seed that beats the odds to blossom big in the spring. You can teach your child to love and respect the great outdoors. Here's how:

- Plant a flower garden with your child so you can follow the journey from seeds to sprouts to beautiful blooms. How many seeds did you plant? Did all of them make it?
- Get additional books about nature to learn more. Read about trees or plants and go hunting for different varieties. Plant the seeds of curiosity in your child, and watch an eager learner blossom.
- Explore other processes and wonders of nature. Talk about weather, the seasons, the tides, and the way stars and planets move through the sky. Books can help you learn more, but don't forget the need for hands-on learning. Why not join your child for a dip in the ocean or lie back on the soft grass together and gaze at the stars?

This tip is created by the health and parenting experts at:



For more tips, visit [www.NurturingCircle.com](http://www.NurturingCircle.com).

Eric Carle  
**The Tiny  
Seed**



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It is Autumn.

A strong wind is blowing. It blows flower seeds high in the air and carries them far across the land. One of the seeds is tiny, smaller than any of the others. Will it be able to keep up with the others? And where are they all going?



One of the seeds flies higher than the others. Up, up it goes! It flies too high and the sun's hot rays burn it up. But the tiny seed sails on with the others.



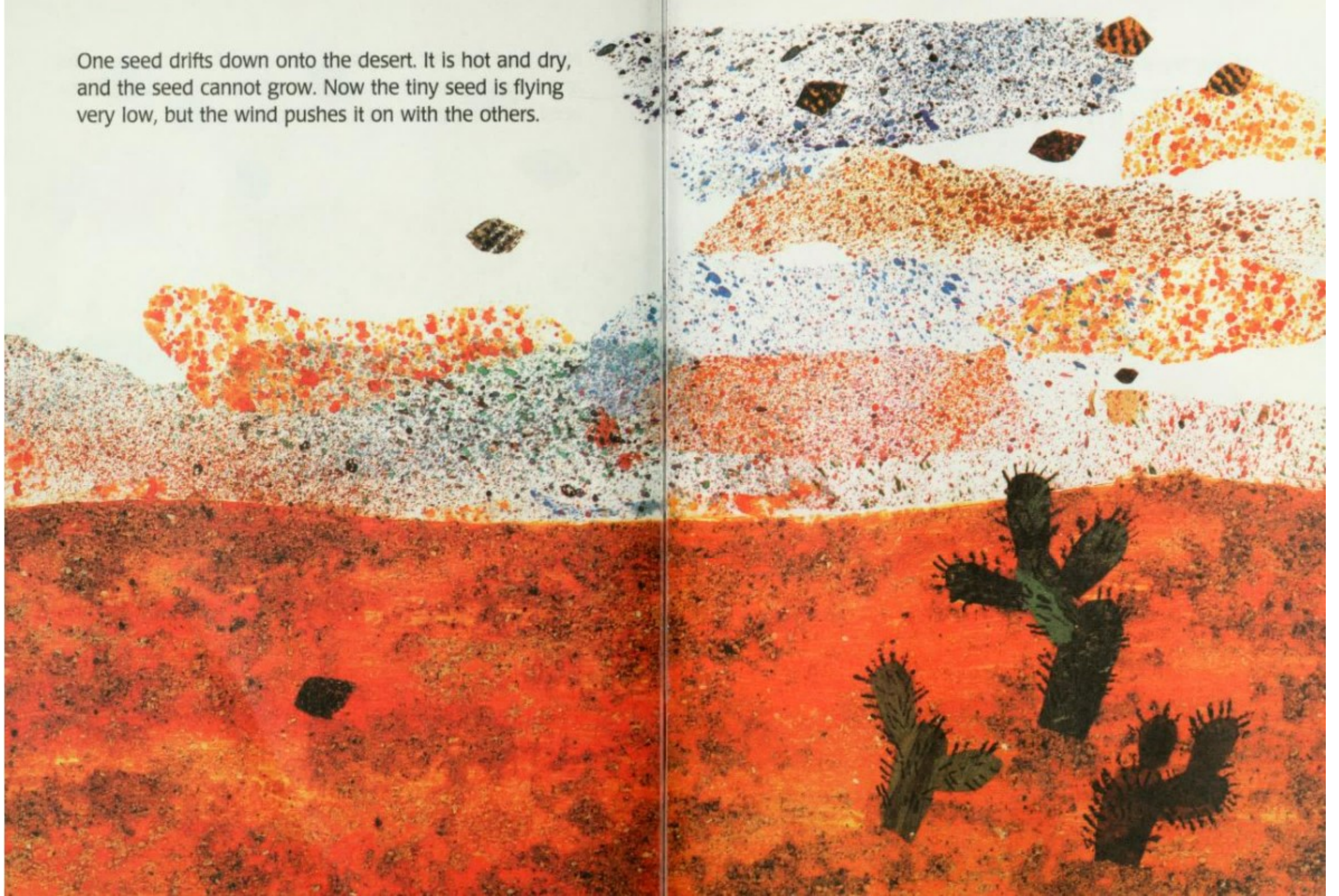
Another seed lands on a tall and icy mountain.  
The ice never melts, and the seed cannot grow.  
The rest of the seeds fly on. But the tiny seed  
does not go as fast as the others.



Now they fly over the ocean. One seed falls into the water and drowns. The others sail on with the wind. But the tiny seed does not go as high as the others.



One seed drifts down onto the desert. It is hot and dry, and the seed cannot grow. Now the tiny seed is flying very low, but the wind pushes it on with the others.



Finally the wind stops and the seeds fall gently down on the ground. A bird comes by and eats one seed. The tiny seed is not eaten. It is so small that the bird does not see it.





Now it is Winter.

After their long trip the seeds settle down. They look just as if they are going to sleep in the earth. Snow falls and covers them like a soft white blanket. A hungry mouse that also lives in the ground eats a seed for his lunch. But the tiny seed lies very still and the mouse does not see it.



Now it is Spring.

After a few months the snow has melted. It is really spring! Birds fly by. The sun shines. Rain falls. The seeds grow so round and full they start to burst open a little.

Now they are not seeds any more. They are plants. First they send roots down into the earth. Then their little stems and leaves begin to grow up toward the sun and air.

There is another plant that grows much faster than the new little plants. It is a big fat weed. And it takes all the sunlight and the rain away from one of the small new plants. And that little plant dies.

The tiny seed hasn't begun to grow yet. It will be too late! Hurry! But finally it too starts to grow into a plant.

