

grow watermelon, grow

charlotte noruzi



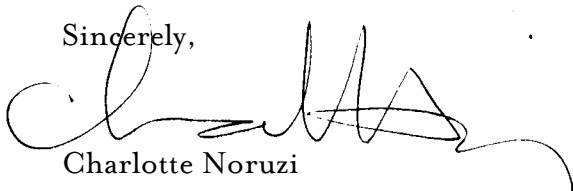
I think growing things is an innate part of our nature and something I'd like to inspire in the children I read too. It is a creative process, just as art and writing are. To see a seed transform into a plant is magical. This is one reason I bring seeds along with me to the readings. Also, I want to encourage kids to write their own story about something that happened to them, to express themselves visually and/or through words, to plant "seeds" of their own.

I am an author-illustrator of a book titled *Grow, Watermelon, Grow* and I give book readings all over New York City. This is my first children's book, self-published under Watermelon Press. In addition to the book, I sell "watermelon" tote bags and buttons, and currently working on a stationery and card line, onesies and tees for kids. The "Growing Facts" sheet included with this letter will give you additional information, such as where the book is sold and the various places I've read and held book signings.

I enjoy sharing the book with children and schools and find it one of the most rewarding things about the book process. The book also holds educational value, teaching kids about patience, about how things grow (literally and metaphorically) and most importantly, to never give up on their dreams. The story is essentially a miniature memoir in children's book form, relaying the adventures of a little girl determined to grow her own watermelon plant—right in her own front yard. It is spirited and humorous and written for children of all ages, but also for the curious, determined, and impatient child in all of us.

The book presentation includes the reading, a Q & A with the children, an art project (watermelon fruit printing), facts about watermelons, seed distribution, and a process presentation, where I take kids through the ins and outs of creating a book. I hope you will consider *Grow, Watermelon, Grow* for your next book reading event!

Sincerely,



Charlotte Noruzi

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Growing facts



Where is it sold? The Brooklyn Botanic Garden Giftshop
The Craft and Folk Art Museum gift shop, Los Angeles
Ketab Corporation, a “Barnes and Noble” Iranian bookseller
Chapters and Indigo bookstores, Toronto
Community Bookstore, Brooklyn
Babos Bookstore, Brooklyn
Logos Bookstore, Manhattan



Book readings and signings: NYU/RUSK Hospital for Pediatric Rehabilitation
The Buckley School, Manhattan
The School at Columbia University
PS 123, Brooklyn
PS 11, Brooklyn
University Settlement After-School Program/PS 130
IMAGINE Bronx Academy of Promise Charter School
“Do Art Make Stuff” School of Art, Brooklyn
PS77 Lower Lab, Manhattan



Fairs and Festivals: Ghouls and Gourds Halloween Festival, Brooklyn Botanic Garden
Small Press Book Fair, New York
Mehregan Persian Cultural Festival, California
Persian New Year Festival, Toronto
New York Book Festival, New York (*awarded Honorable Mention*)



News/Press: Bushwick Press article written about author visit to PS123 in Brooklyn
The Rockville Centre Library, Long Island adds book to their collection
Upcoming: Brooklyn Botanical Garden “Ghouls and Gourds” Festival, featured author

charlotte noruzi special guest artist - class highlights 4/1/09



"Is the author of *Grow Watermelon Grow* and *Urban Iran* here today?" asks Jacques Anthony immediately upon arrival to class. Now I know someone is reading the flyers. We were so lucky to have artist/writer Charlotte Noruzi visit our class! Charlotte is author and illustrator of the autobiographical children's book *Grow Watermelon Grow* and has co-written and compiled a fascinating book on contemporary art in Iran with a focus on street art and illustration called *Urban Iran*. Both books have a unique cultural feel and the most beautiful art work (some of my all time favorite).

Charlotte read her book to the classes and for the older kids, did a presentation on the process of making her children's book. She covered the gamut from inspiration to manuscript to thumbnails to teeny tiny dummy to finished art to final book. It was a great way to show the children how an artist thinks and works while doing a big project. After the presentation we all made watermelon and fruit prints (inspired by the watermelon prints in Charlotte's book).



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Telling Your Own Story



The second grade talked about the memoir-writing process with author Charlotte Noruzi last week, and heard first-hand how the pros do it. Second grader Francesca shared what she learned: "If you don't remember everything about something that happened, you can use your imagination."

Author Charlotte Noruzi Visits, and Reads to PS 123 Third Graders



Author Charlotte Noruzi (far right) with third graders at PS 123. Ms. Noruzi read from her book, "Grow, Watermelon, Grow."

Author Charlotte Noruzi's recently published book, "Grow, Watermelon, Grow" is about a little girl who insists on growing her own watermelon. Ms. Noruzi illustrated the book with her own drawings. Recently, Ms. Noruzi visited PS 123 to read *Grow, Watermelon Grow* to the students.

Ms. Noruzi was invited to the school by faculty member Ms. Kristin de Geus Harrison. "A friend of mine, Sofia Chen was a student of Ms.

Noruzi's graphic design class at Pratt Institute," said Ms. Harrison. "Sofia told me about Charlotte's book, and let me read a copy. The book uses a lot of skills we teach in our readers and writers workshops at the school, so I asked Sofia if I could contact Charlotte. I invited Ms. Noruzi to the school and she graciously accepted.

"Along with the reading," continued Ms. Harrison, "she brought large collages of pictures from the book. They were cut up into pieces so each

child could paint a portion then put them together. She also brought in watermelon pieces and paint for students to replicate the way she did some of the illustrations in the book. Additionally, she brought pots with watermelon seeds that we plan on planting in the grass in front of the school, or maybe even Maria Hernandez Park in the spring."

Ms. Noruzi read to the third grade. "I had a truly wonderful experience with the kids at PS 123," she

said. "Their enthusiasm and excitement at my visit and reading was a thrill for me. They listened and participated so intently, and their inquisitiveness and curiosity was just great to witness. Their interest was a reflection of the care and interest of their teachers, who welcomed me with such warmth and enthusiasm."

Ms. Harrison and Ms. Noruzi are hoping the author will return to the school to read to the fourth and fifth graders.





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onesies and greeting cards

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vendor information

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item information

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