Strange Plants

Written by Kira Freed

Correlation

LEVEL K

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fountas &amp; Pinnell</th>
<th>J</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading Recovery</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRA</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Photo Credits:
When we think about plants, we often think of trees, flowers and grass. Like most plants, these plants have green leaves. They also have roots growing into the ground.

Some plants are not like most plants. This book is about some of these strange plants.
Plants called air plants live in trees high above the ground. Their roots are not buried in dirt. Instead they grow on tree branches. They take moisture from the air, not from the soil like most plants do.

Can you imagine plants that eat meat? Well there are such plants. They eat insects, spiders and even some other small animals. One well-known meat-eating plant is the Venus flytrap.
Its leaves look like traps. They have small spikes along their edges. When a small creature walks inside a leaf, the leaf snaps shut. The small creature is trapped.

The sundew is also a meat-eating plant. It has many sticky hairs on its surface. Insects landing on it get stuck. Then the plant digests the insect. The giant sundew plant of Australia even eats small frogs!
Strange Plants • Level K

Some plants steal food from other plants. The dodder plant sends root-like parts into another plant. It sucks food and water from the plant. It is a parasite. A parasite lives off another living thing.

Many flowers have bad smells that attract insects. The stapelia flower smells like rotting meat. Flies like the smell, so they fly into the flower. Special powder gets on their bodies. They take the powder to other flowers. The flowers use the powder to make seeds and grow new plants.

Dodder plant

Stapelia flower
Some plants look like stones. The plants in this picture are called “stone plants” or “living stones”. They live in very hot, dry places. They hold water very well. Their shape helps to hide them so that animals do not eat them.

Some cactus plants are covered with wool-like hairs. The “wool” protects them from daytime heat. It protects them from night-time cold. The “wool” also helps the cactus plants hold moisture.
Some plants have animals living inside them. Ant colonies live inside ant plants. They use spaces in the plant’s stem as houses. Some spaces are used for raising young ants. Other spaces are used for rubbish. The ant plant uses some of this rubbish for food.
There are many more kinds of strange plants. Bamboo makes a noise when it grows. Some Australian orchids grow and flower completely underground. There are many amazing plants in the world.

Index

air plants, 5
ant plant, 14
bamboo, 15
cactus, 4, 12
meat-eating plants, 6–8, 10
parasite, 9
stapelia, 10
stone plant, 11
sundew, 8
Venus flytrap, 6, 7