



## Read-Aloud Finny

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Something caught Henry's eye on his apartment building's giveaway table. He moved aside a pile of books to get a better look. A tiny plant sat in the shadows. It was thick and shiny and shaped like a fin.

Henry had been looking for a plant to brighten up his room. He reached over and picked up the pot. "I'll call you Finny," he said.

3



Upstairs, Henry placed his new plant in the sun, and measured it. "Not bad," he said. "But now that I'm taking care of you, you'll really get big."

Henry filled up a cup of water and poured it into the pot. "Drink up, Finny!"

4



But a few days later, Finny was drooping. It looked like Finny was shrinking! Maybe Finny needed more sun, and more water, Henry thought.

 **Ask:** "What do you notice? What do you wonder?"

5



So he made sure that Finny was always in the sun. He even started watering Finny twice a day.

"Please grow," he begged.

But Finny wasn't getting taller.

6



So Henry took soil out, then he put soil back in. He tried watering his plant with a new can; he tried watering it with a spoon.

**Ask:** "What do you notice? What do you wonder?"

7



Nothing worked!

Maybe, Henry thought, I should treat Finny like a pet!

He took Finny for walks. He played music for Finny. He chopped up spinach to mix into Finny's soil.

8



Still, Finny only continued to droop.

"I'm sorry, Finny," Henry said. "I give up. I don't know how to take care of you!"



13



Weeks passed. Finally, Finny looked much better! His shadow stretched all the way onto the rug. It hadn't been there before. Excited, Henry found the notebook he used to record his notes on Finny.

14



This time, he used a ruler made just for plants. When he held it against Finny's sturdy, shiny leaf, Henry smiled.

He saw that Finny was brighter and, most excitingly, Finny was taller! Henry's plant was healthy and growing.

Maybe Henry was growing, too.