



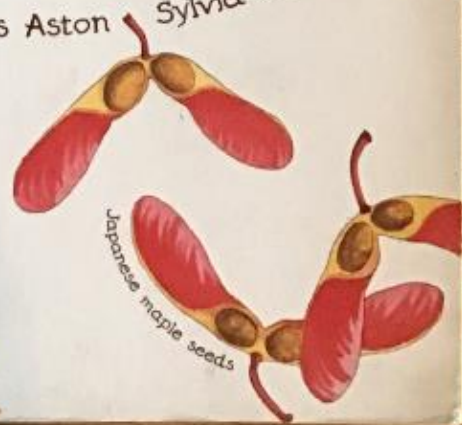
Texas mountain laurel pod

A Seed Is Sleepy



sunflower

Dianna Hutts Aston Sylvia Long



Japanese maple seeds

Naranja



Pumpkin



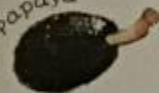
Sea heart



Turpentine broom



Papaya



Guyanese wild coffee

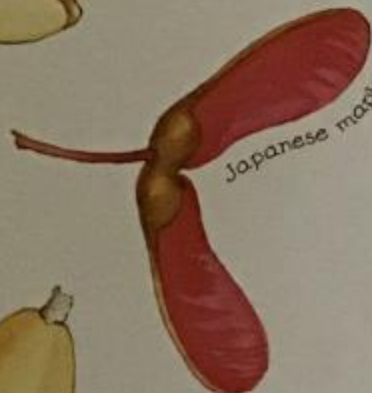


Cocklebur

Strawberry



Japanese maple



Rice



Dandelion



Violet



Mary's bean



Coco de mer palm



Black palm



Hog plum



Date palm (extinct)



Swamp palm



Hopseed



Hamburger bean

Slash pine



Sea coconut

Teak



Red huckleberry



Earpod

Orchid



Coast redwood



Indian almond

Corn



Bean



Monkey's comb



Texas mountain laurel



Blueberry



Sunflower



Milkweed



Devil's claw



Hopseed

To Rosemary Stimola, my "little flower," with gratitude and love —D. A.
To Sophie Grace, the sweetest little sprout in Nana's garden —S. L.

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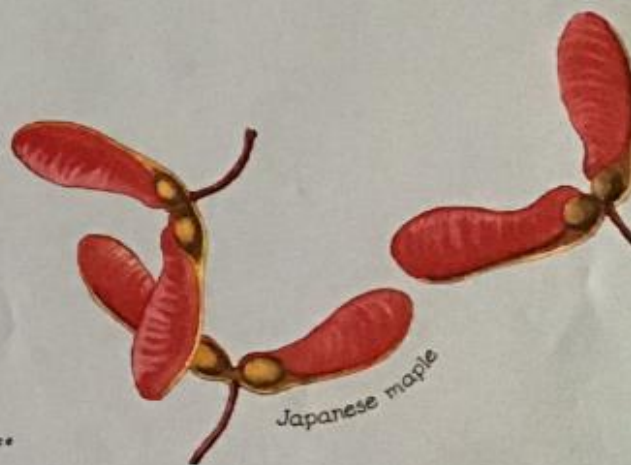
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A Seed Is Sleepy

by Dianna Hutts Aston • illustrated by Sylvia Long



Japanese maple

chronicle books san francisco



Sunflower

A seed is sleepy.

*It lies there, tucked inside its flower,
on its cone, or beneath the soil. Snug. Still.*

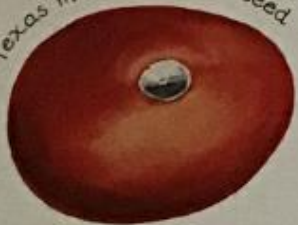




Texas mountain laurel pod

A seed is secretive.

Texas mountain laurel seed



*It does not reveal itself
too quickly.*



Texas mountain laurel flower

Most seeds sleep through a season or two,
waiting for the warmer temperatures of spring.
But some take their time. Ten years might
pass before the bright red-orange seed of the
Texas mountain laurel shows its purple blooms.

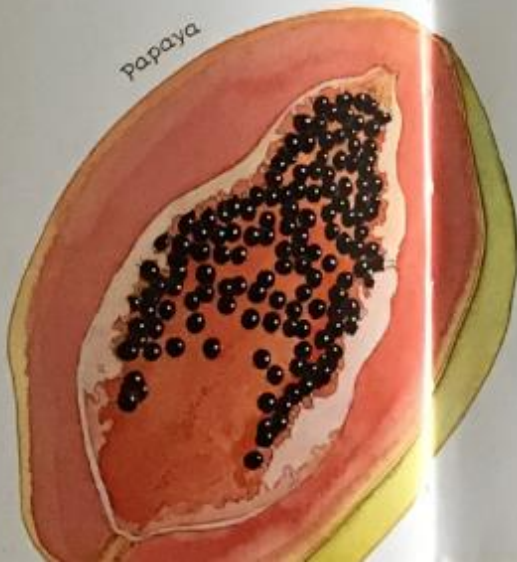


Naranjito

Blueberry



Texas barberry



papaya



Guyanese wild coffee

Indian almond



Turpentine broom

A seed is fruitful.



Devil's claw

strawberry

Ninety percent of the plants on Earth are flowering plants. Flowering plants produce fruits—fruits of all shapes and textures that keep the seeds cozy until they have found the right place to grow.

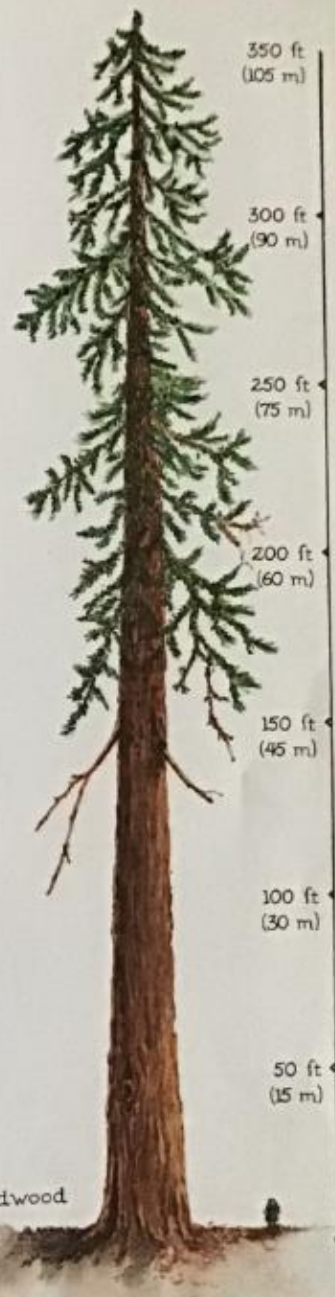


*A seed
is naked.*

Yes, naked!

Scientists call gymnosperms—seeds that aren't clothed in fruits—naked seeds. Most naked seeds hide themselves on the scales of cones until they're ready to make a dash for the ground.

Who would guess that a seed as small as a freckle would grow into the world's tallest tree? Only ten percent of redwood trees begin as seeds, though. Most redwood trees spring from existing trees.

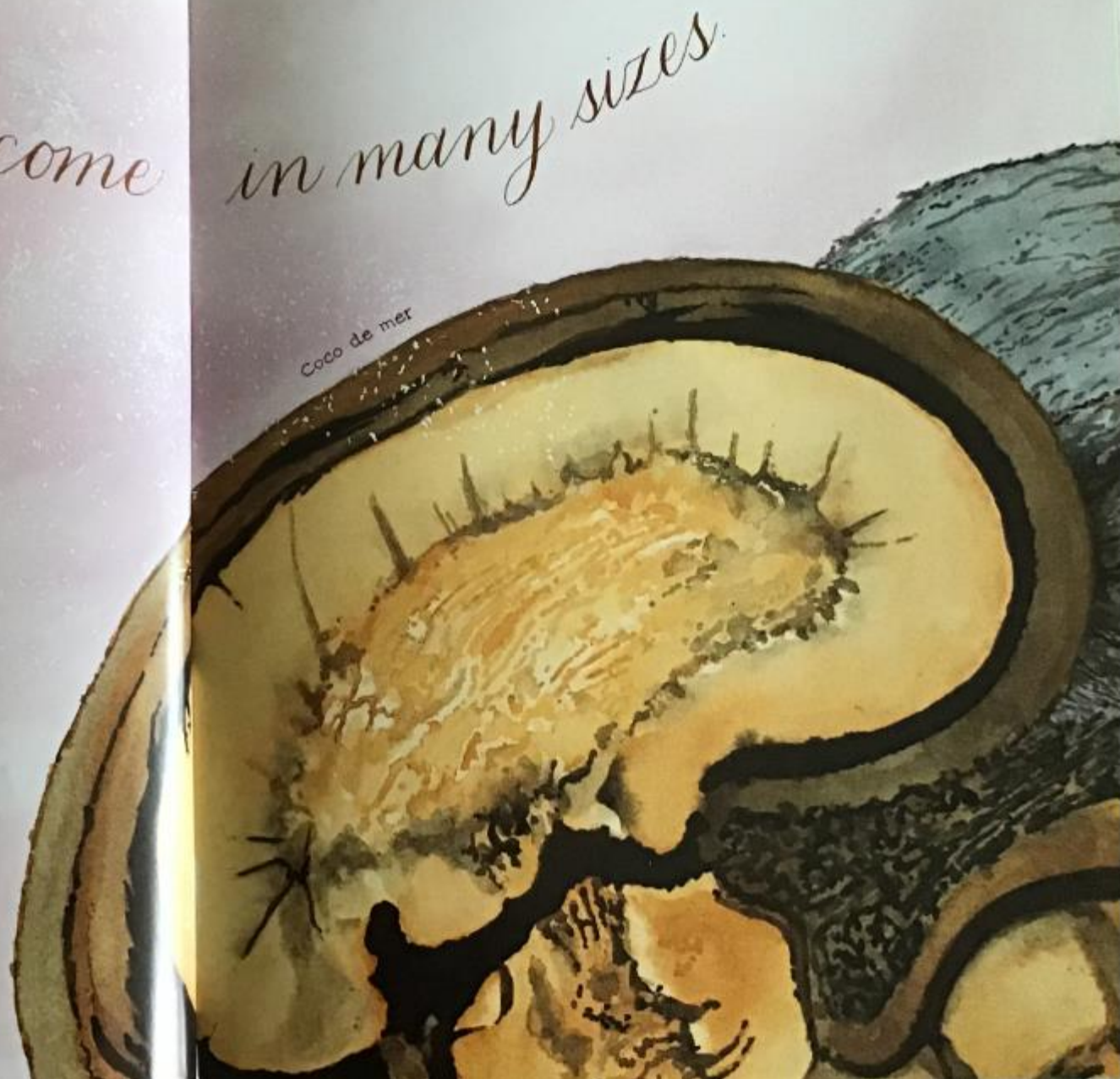



Coast redwood

Seeds come in many sizes.



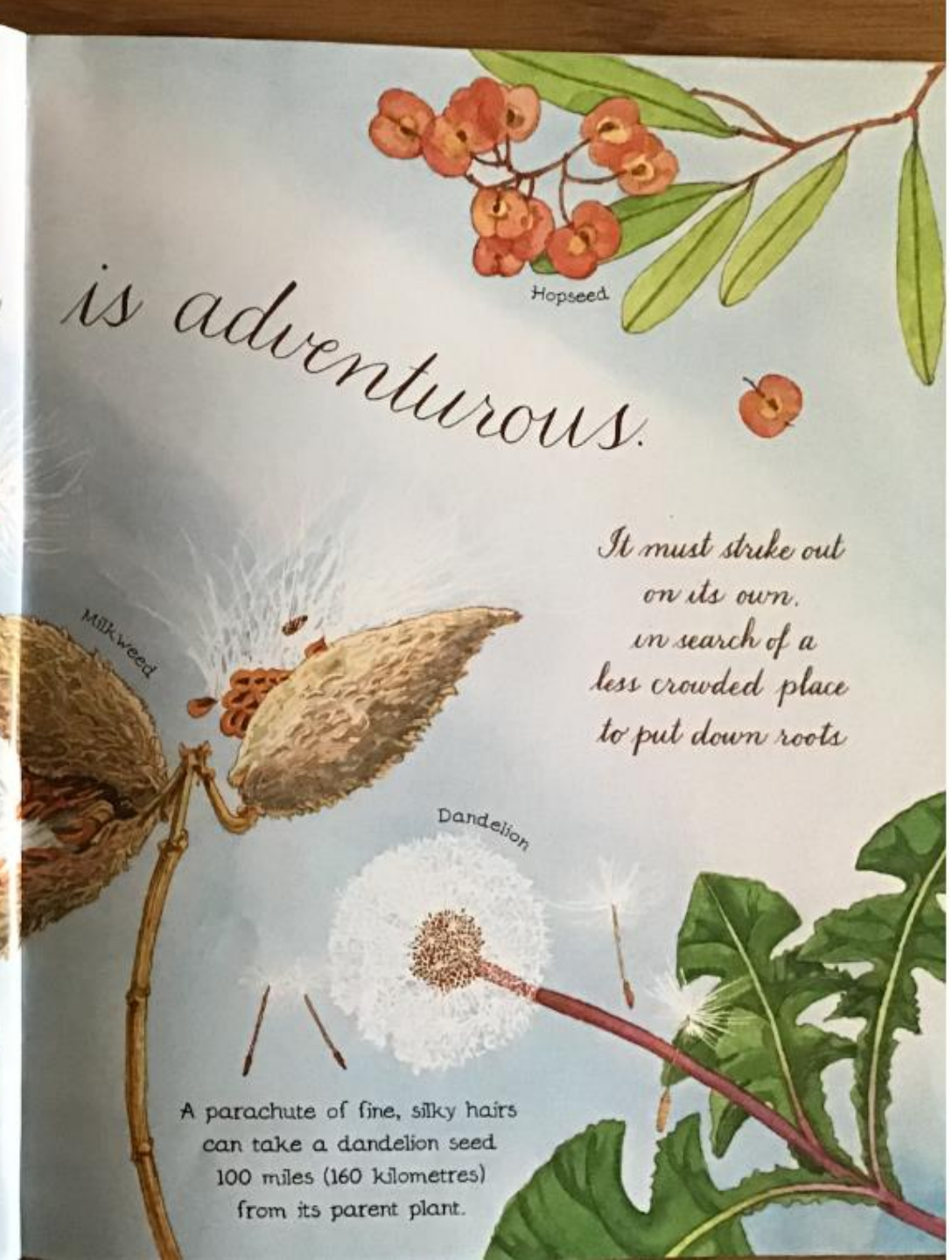
The orchid seed is the smallest of all.
There might be a million seeds in one pod!
The seed of the coco de mer palm is the largest.
It can weigh up to 60 pounds (25 kilograms).



An illustration on the left page of a book. At the top left, a milkweed seed with its white, feathery parachute is shown, labeled 'Milkweed'. To its right are several hopseeds, which are small, round, reddish-brown fruits, labeled 'Hopseed'. Below these is a large, detailed illustration of a Japanese maple leaf, showing its characteristic palmate shape and vibrant orange and red autumn colors, labeled 'Japanese maple leaf'. At the bottom left, there are red, winged maple seeds, labeled 'Japanese maple seed'. The background is a light blue sky with some faint clouds.

A seed is adventurous.

*It must strike out
on its own,
in search of a
less crowded place
to put down roots*

An illustration on the right page of a book. At the top right, there is a cluster of hopseeds on a branch with green leaves, labeled 'Hopseed'. Below this, a single hopseed is shown. In the center, a milkweed seed is shown with its large, brown, papery structure, labeled 'Milkweed'. To the right of the milkweed is a dandelion seed with its white, feathery parachute, labeled 'Dandelion'. At the bottom right, there are green leaves of a plant. The background is a light blue sky with some faint clouds.

A parachute of fine, silky hairs
can take a dandelion seed
100 miles (160 kilometres)
from its parent plant.



Earpod



Mary's bean

*Drift seeds float on
ocean currents, from one
shore to another.*



Sea heart

Monkey ladder pod



Swamp palm



Hamburger bean



Sea coconut

*and their thick, protective
shells keep out seawater.*



Hog plum



Black palm



Monkey's comb

*To find a spot to grow,
a seed might leap from its pod,*



Cookiebur



*or cling to a
child's shoestring.*



A seed is inventive.



*or tumble through
a bear's belly.*

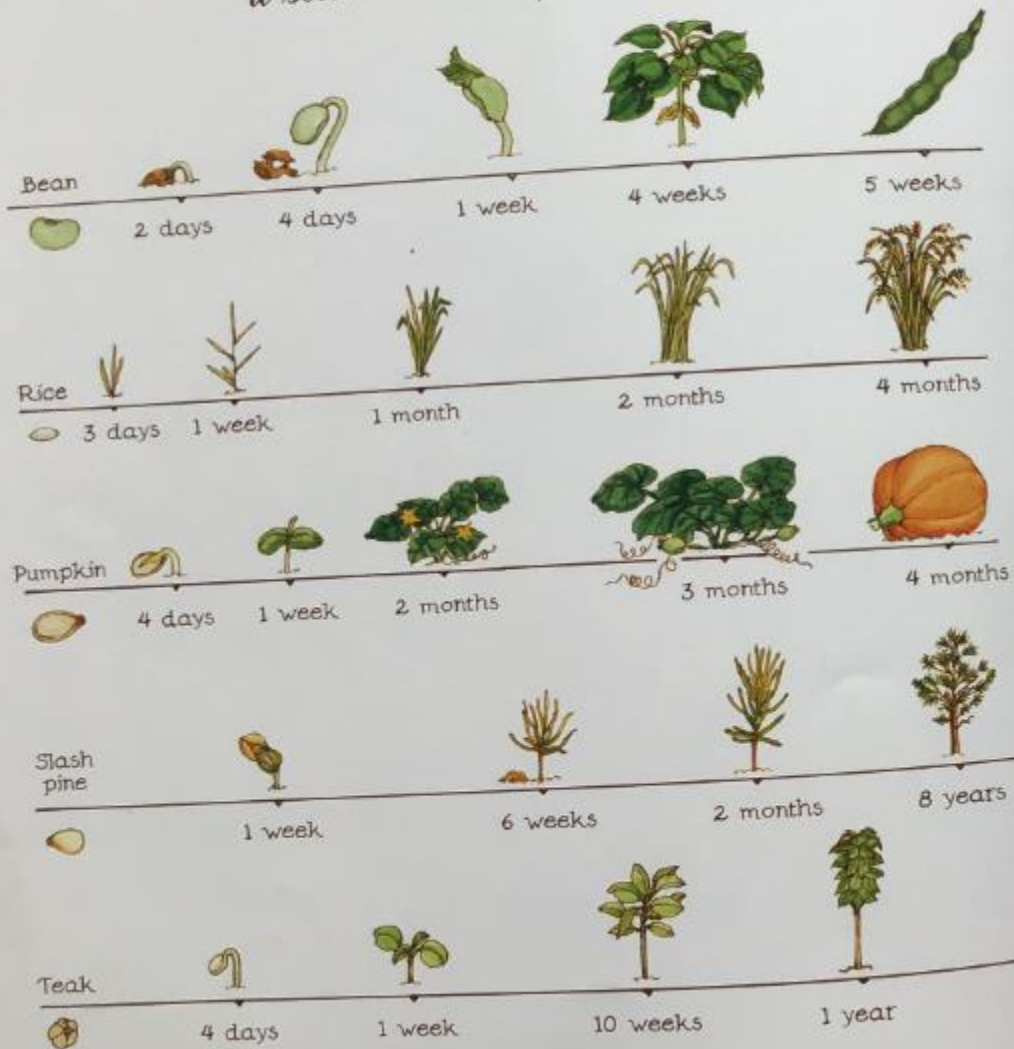
Red huckleberry



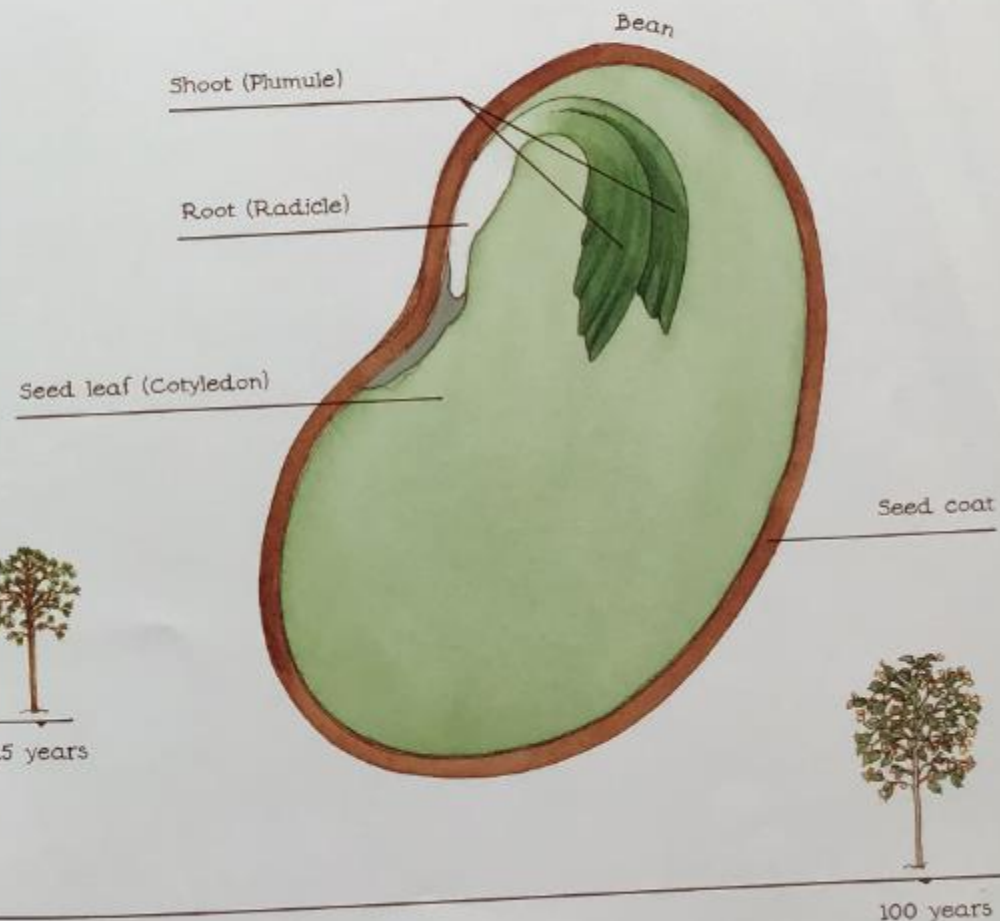
*A seed hopes to land where
there is plenty of
sunlight, soil, and water.*

A seed is generous.

*It gives the baby plant, or embryo:
a seed coat to keep it warm.*



The embryo's first meal comes from its seed leaves, or cotyledons. Seeds with one seed leaf, like corn, are called monocots. Seeds with two seed leaves, like beans, are called dicots.



Some seeds are ancient.

Not all seeds are eager to germinate.
Some have lain dormant, or slept undisturbed,
for more than a thousand years.

The oldest known seed to sprout
came from an extinct date palm tree.

After it was unearthed from a
long-ago king's mountaintop palace
in Israel, a scientist planted it.
Four weeks later, it sprouted!



Date palm

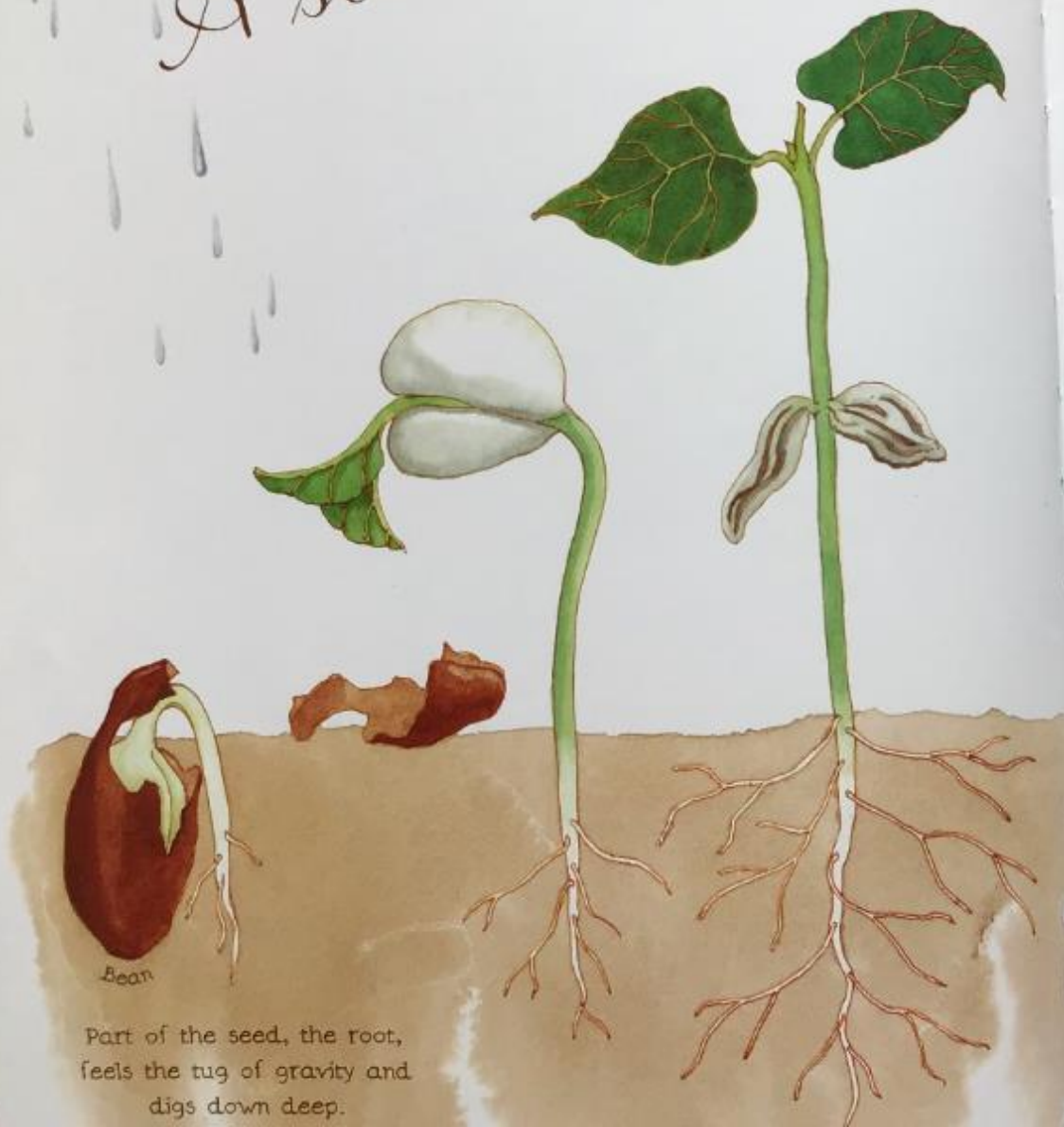


A seed is thirsty

... and hungry.

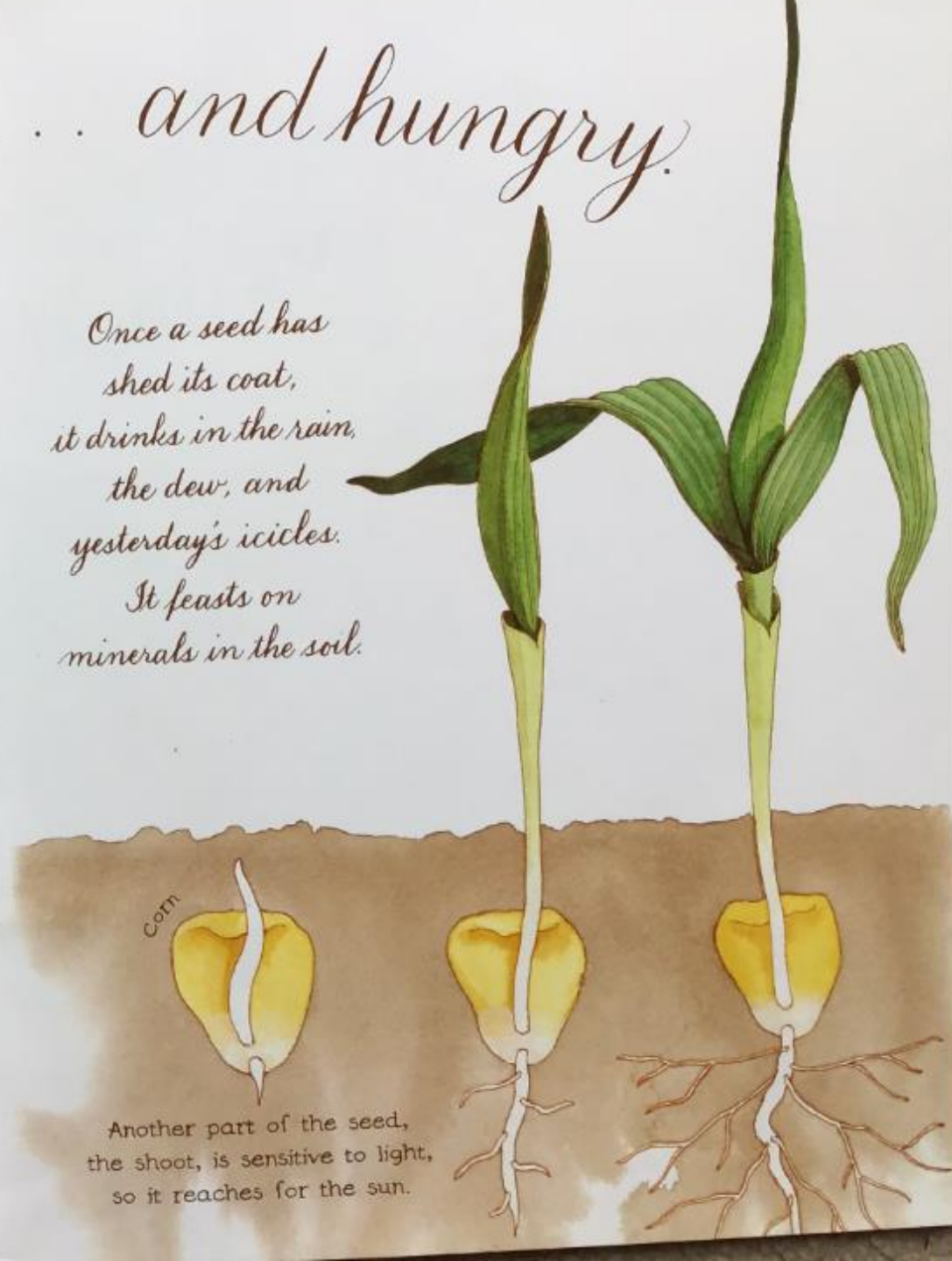
*Once a seed has
shed its coat,
it drinks in the rain,
the dew, and
yesterday's icicles.*

*It feasts on
minerals in the soil.*



Bean

Part of the seed, the root,
feels the tug of gravity and
digs down deep.



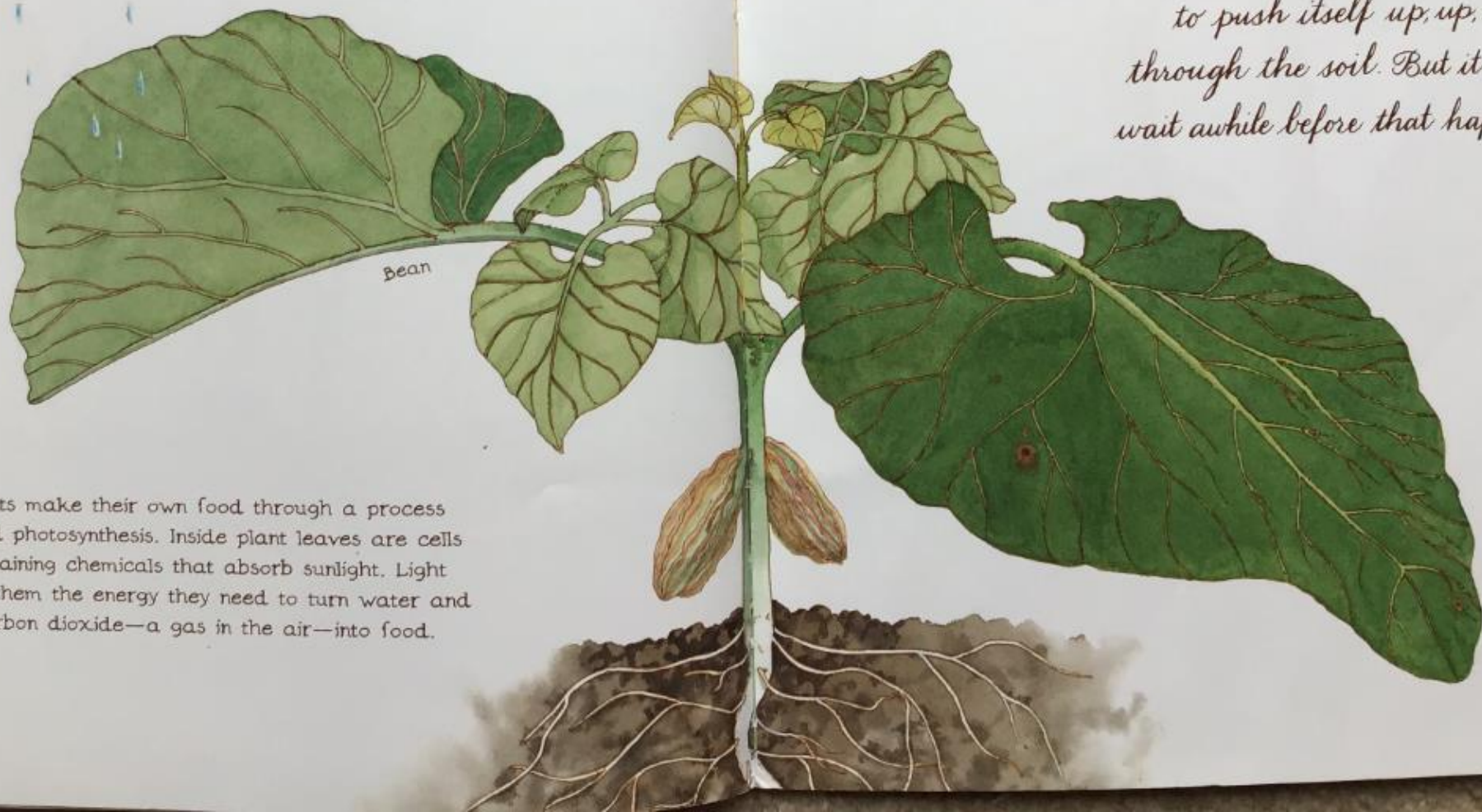
Corn

Another part of the seed,
the shoot, is sensitive to light,
so it reaches for the sun.

A seed is clever.

*It knows to seek the sunlight...
to push itself up, up, up
through the soil. But it must
wait awhile before that happens.*

Plants make their own food through a process called photosynthesis. Inside plant leaves are cells containing chemicals that absorb sunlight. Light gives them the energy they need to turn water and carbon dioxide—a gas in the air—into food.





sunflower

A seed is sleepy,

*but only until it has found
a place in the sun
and it has had its breakfast
and a drink of water.*



Then a seed is . . .

awake!





Coco de mer palm



Corn



Earpod



Hamburger bean



Cocklebur



Monkey ladder pod



Date palm (Phoenix)



Strawberry



Milkweed



Hog plum



Teak



Hopseed



Sunflower



Guyanese wild coffee



Turpentine broom



Violet



slash pine



Sea coconut



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Rice