Farmer’s Garden

Ages 4-6. In a series of rhythmic, rhyming conversations, a farmer's dog asks various animals and plants about what they like about or what they do in the farmer's garden: "Worm, Worm / what do you eat?" asks the dog; "Delicious dirt / Is such a treat!" comes the reply. Each conversation, which usually involves more than one question-answer snippet, is presented on a double-page spread. Reflecting good humor and joyful curiosity, the accompanying paintings appear to be gouache on textured paper, with Johnson-Petrov's real-life brown, black, and white pooch the model for the inquisitive canine. In one painting, the dog is featured on its back talking with a butterfly; in another, it appears with nose to the ground, conversing with carrots. A good way to introduce children to poetry or to classroom theater presentations. Ellen Mandel

Books and More for Growing Minds (Somerville, NJ)

The day in the life of the farmer’s dog is quite busy as he scopes out the land, questions the crops, and inspects the animals, in a lively rhyming tale designed to be read by two voices, prompting children’s participation.