

Leaves

by David Ezra Stein

A simple, charming board book that chronicles a young bear's first autumn experience as he discovers falling leaves.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *What color are the leaves at your house?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder if that bear will pick the leaf up?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. The illustrations in this book are very detailed so allow plenty of time for the children to look. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words in *Leaves*

- island: an area of land surrounded by water
- beneath: in, at or to a lower position or lower level, underneath
- snug: cozy, sheltered, small but comfortable
- piled: a number of things stacked one on top of another
- buds: an unopened flower found on a stem
- bare: lacking plants, basic
- unfold: to open something and to spread out

After you read:

- How old was the bear in the beginning of the story?
- What fell to the ground?
- What color were the falling leaves?
- What did the bear try to do with the fallen leaves?
- Why did the bear fill the hole with leaves?
- How long did the bear sleep in the hole?
- In which season did the bear wake up?
- Describe what the island looked like in the Winter. Spring?
- Was the bear happy when he saw the leaf buds?

Do

Fallen Leaves

After reading the story, go on a nature walk out on the playground, local park or in the community. Have the children pick up leaves that have fallen on the ground and collect them in a basket or bag. After returning to the classroom, have the kids classify and sort the leaves by size, color or by shape. Have the children describe each leaf and talk about what makes them similar and different. If fall leaves are not available, supply artificial autumn leaves found at your local decorating or craft store.