

The Leaf that Wouldn't Leave

by Trish Trinco

A delightful and colorful book depicting a young leaf's fear of change and how by overcoming fear, one can discover that change is not always bad.



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 is your favorite fall color?* 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 why that leaf is the only one on the branch?

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 *The Leaf that Wouldn't Leave*

- autumn: the season after summer and before winter, another name for fall
- season: a traditional division of the year, based on weather conditions
- branches: a woody limb of a tree that grows out from a larger limb or the trunk
- birch: the pale wood of the birch tree
- perch: a place for a bird to land or rest on
- rut: a narrow channel or groove in something
- evergreen: a tree with leaves that retains color throughout the year
- complaining: to express discontent or unhappiness about a situation
- homebody: somebody who prefers to be at home and not at other places
- secure: firmly fixed or not worried
- backbone: like the spinal cord, the central supporting part of an object
- stubborn: unreasonably determined
- brisk: done quickly and energetically
- fountain: a sudden spray of something into the air
- flutter: to move something light or small in quick back-and-forth motions
- gutter: a metal or plastic channel attached to a roof used to carry away rainwater
- dread: to feel extremely frightened or worried about something
- beaming: a broad smile of happiness or satisfaction

After you read:

- In what season does the story take place?
- What colors were all of the leaves?
- What was the name of the one leaf that didn't change colors?
- Why didn't Luigi want to change colors and fly away with the other leaves?
- What kind of tree stood by Luigi?
- Why did the evergreen tree tell Luigi he should change colors and leave?
- How did Luigi feel after he finally left the tree?
- Where did Luigi go?
- Where did Luigi end up resting? What kind of animal shared the branch with Luigi?
- When Luigi returned home, where did he fall asleep?
- Where can you find Luigi today?



Do

Red-Instead...Finding Words that Rhyme

After reading the story, have the children find rhyming words throughout the book. For example, read page one and ask the children to find the words that rhyme with remember and autumn. Have the children say other words that rhyme, such as, timber, December and member. Allow the students to come up with nonsense words as well, such as, dember, fember, etc. Continue discovering rhyming words on each page. If desired, write each rhyming word family on a piece of paper or on a board. Discuss why the words rhyme by circling the like letters.