

The Little Yellow Leaf

by Carin Berger

Hand-crafted, collage illustrations and a heart-warming story, beautifully depict how true friends can help anyone overcome changes.



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, *If you were a leaf, what color would you like to be?* 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 where all the other leaves went?

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 Little Yellow Leaf*

- autumn: the season after summer and before winter, another name for fall
- clung: to hold tight to something
- riot: a spectacular visual display
- fiery: something that has a bright red color
- beckoned: to gesture somebody to come
- teased: to make fun of somebody
- musky: having a sweet pungent smell similar to musk
- flocks: a group of birds that travel, live and eat together
- heaps: to stack a lot of something together
- crackly: brittle or crisp
- harvest moon: a full moon nearest to the autumn equinox
- amber: to have a brownish, yellow color
- starry: covered or decorated with stars
- flurried: a sudden short period of snowfall
- bare: basic, simple and lacking plants
- shimmer: to shine with wavering light

After you read:

- In what season did the story first take place?
- How many leaves were on the oak tree?
- Where were the other leaves?
- Name some of the animals, fruits and fall items that were around the leaf.
- What did the children do with some of the leaves that had fallen off the tree?
- How did the weather change?
- What else was on the tree with the little yellow leaf?
- What did the little yellow leaf and the scarlet leaf do together?



Do

Describing Fall

After reading the story, explain to the children what adjectives and adverbs are. (Adjective: a word that describes a person, place or thing – red, shiny, etc. Adverb: a word that modifies a verb – happily, very, etc.). Re-read the story and stop every time an adjective or adverb is found and explain why it is one or the other. Talk about the noun or verb that is being described. Have the children discuss other adjectives and adverbs that could also describe or modify the word. If desired, choose objects in the room and have the children describe them (using their five senses).

Additional Activity: Have the children perform various verbs (walking, jumping, running and dancing), then add adverbs to change up their movements. For example, silly, fast, slowly, happily, backwards, bashfully, sadly, etc.