

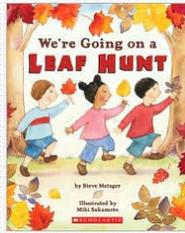
# Theme 5: Fall

## Additional Books:

### Fiction:

#### *We're Going on a Leaf Hunt* by Steve Metzger

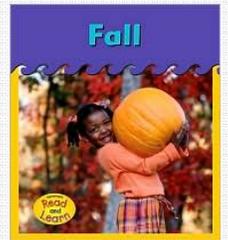
*We're Going on a Leaf Hunt* is similar to *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* which many children may be familiar with. Three children set out on a leaf hunt to find colorful leaves. They climb over a tall mountain, walk through a dark forest, walk around a waterfall and paddle across a lake! Along the way, they find maple, birch, hickory and red oak leaves! They also find a skunk and run all the way back home!



### Non-Fiction:

#### *Fall* by Patricia Whitehouse

*Fall* is a book that discusses what fall is all about! What is the weather like? What kinds of clothes do you wear? What does it feel like, smell like and taste like? This is a fun book that gives just enough information to get children excited about exploring and learning more about fall.



## Ideas for Reading the Books

### Talk about Seasons



To introduce the *Fall* book, talk about the four seasons. This is discussed in the beginning of the book with pictures to represent each season.

Point out some of the differences in the season pictures. Tell the children that you are going to read a book about fall.

Point to the fall picture on the seasons page and ask the children what happens in the fall? How would they know that it is fall? Write their responses on chart paper so you can refer back to them after reading the book.

Bring props to use as you read the book like different colored leaves, apples, pumpkins, and clothes you might wear in the fall. Use the props to explain some of the unfamiliar vocabulary words. For example, the book talks about feeling scratchy, dry leaves. Have a box filled with leaves and let each child feel the scratchy, dry leaves. See if they can figure out what scratchy means as they feel the leaves. After reading the book, refer back to the list and see if they want to add anything about fall.

### Talk about Leaves

*We're Going on a Leaf Hunt* is a fun book to read after reading *Fall*. Refer back to the *Fall* book and remind the children that when leaves begin to change colors, we know it is fall! As you read the book, talk about the different colored leaves the children find and the names of the trees.



### Go on a Leaf Hunt

Go on a leaf hunt after reading the book. Have the children pick up colorful leaves (or anything that represents fall such as acorns!) that they find on their leaf hunt to take back to the classroom. Talk about the leaves and the trees as they find fall treasures! Take a book that shows pictures of different trees on the walk and see if you can figure out the names of the trees. Take a picture of one of the trees with lots of colorful leaves. You can then take a picture of the same tree in the winter, spring and summer so children can explore the differences across the seasons.



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## Ideas for Reading the Books (continued)

### Examples of Possible Vocabulary Words

- Forest
- Waterfall
- Under/over
- Scratchy
- Frost
- Orchard
- Chimney
- Goose
- Bonfire
- Pumpkin
- Apple Cider
- Around

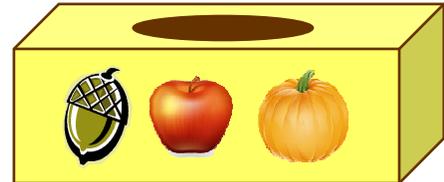
### Get Into the Story

*We're Going on a Leaf Hunt* is a great book for engaging children while reading the book. They can go through the motions and make the sounds such as "huff, puff." They will probably already be familiar with the rhythm of the words based on *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*.

### Make an Obstacle Course

A fun way to get children involved and to help them learn new vocabulary words would be to set up an obstacle course in your classroom or outside to act out the book. Have objects that they can't go under but have to go over (like the mountain in the book). Make sure you say the words and make the sounds as you go over the mountain just like in the book (Climb, climb, huff, puff, We made it!). After they go over the object, have leaves that they can pick up. For the next part of the book, the dark forest, you might have a refrigerator box for the children to go through. This will help children learn words (under, over, through, around, across) and practice the meaning of the words at the same time.

### Fall Feely Box



After talking about fall, make a Fall Feely Box with items that represent fall (leaves, acorns, apples, little pumpkins, hay). Cut a hole in the top of the box so children can put their hand in the box and try to guess what they feel. Put the items in the box before circle time so children can't see what is in the box. Let children take turns putting their hands in the box and describing what they feel. Have a chart with the names of the items in the box written on the paper. As children identify the object, put a picture of the object by the printed word. Have children sound out the word.

## Sample Center Activities

When using any of the ideas listed below, remember to tell children about the activities and show examples of some of the things that they can do at the centers. Talk about how the activities relate to the book.

### Sample: Writing Center



Make a class leaf book or individual leaf books of fall leaves using the leaves gathered from the leaf hunt as well as leaves the children bring from home. They can glue the leaves to the paper or make leaf rubbings with different shaped leaves. Talk to children as they make the book about the differences in the leaf shapes and colors.



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## Sample Center Activities (continued)

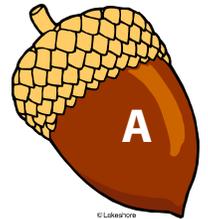
### Sample: Art Center



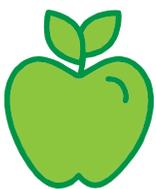
Make a tree shape with no leaves and put it on the wall in the classroom at a height where children can reach to attach leaves to the tree. Cut out leaf shapes on white paper and write children's names on them. Tell the children that you are going to make a colorful tree just like the ones you saw on your leaf hunt. Put the leaves on a table and see if children can find the leaf with their names on them. Help them as they try to find their names by saying their names, talking about what sounds they hear and what letter their name starts with. When they find their name, they can color the leaf and attach it to the tree. Make sure to have markers that represent the colors of the leaves they found on their leaf hunt!

### Sample: Small Group

Make a beginning sounds game by cutting out different shapes, such as an apple, pumpkin or leaf. Choose the shapes based on the ones you have been focusing on in the fall theme. Write a letter on the top half of the shape and the word that represents the shape. For example, write the letter "L" and then write the word "leaf". Laminate the shapes and then cut in half to make puzzles. Children can try to put the shapes together based on the letter and picture. See some examples at the end of the theme.



### Sample: Block Center



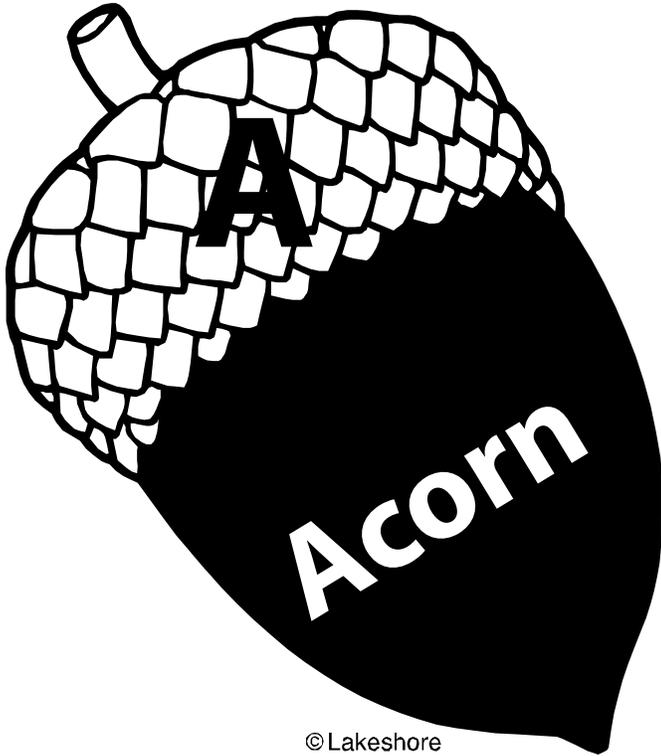
Remind children about the apples that you talked about in the book *Fall*. Tell them that you are going to have different apple snacks at the science center for them to taste and decide which ones they like best. Provide a variety of apple snacks for children to try such as apple slices, apple juice/cider, applesauce, apple jelly and apple butter on small slices of bread or crackers, caramel apple slices (like in the *Fall* book!), and maybe even apple pie! Make a chart with pictures of all of the snacks. After children try the snacks, help them put their names by their favorite snack. You can also have cut out apple shapes for them to write their names (with your help) and then stick their apple name by their favorite apple snack!

If you carve a pumpkin in your classroom, try the following activity when the pumpkin starts to rot. Put the pumpkin in a sealed glass jar (this is a really important step!). Let the children observe and chart what happens to the pumpkin as it rots. Take photographs to demonstrate the timeline of what happens to the pumpkin (include pictures of the pumpkin when it was first brought to the classroom). Children will be able to see the pumpkin change colors and shapes and maybe even mold! While this may seem a little "yucky," the children will have fun seeing the pumpkin change and documenting the process!

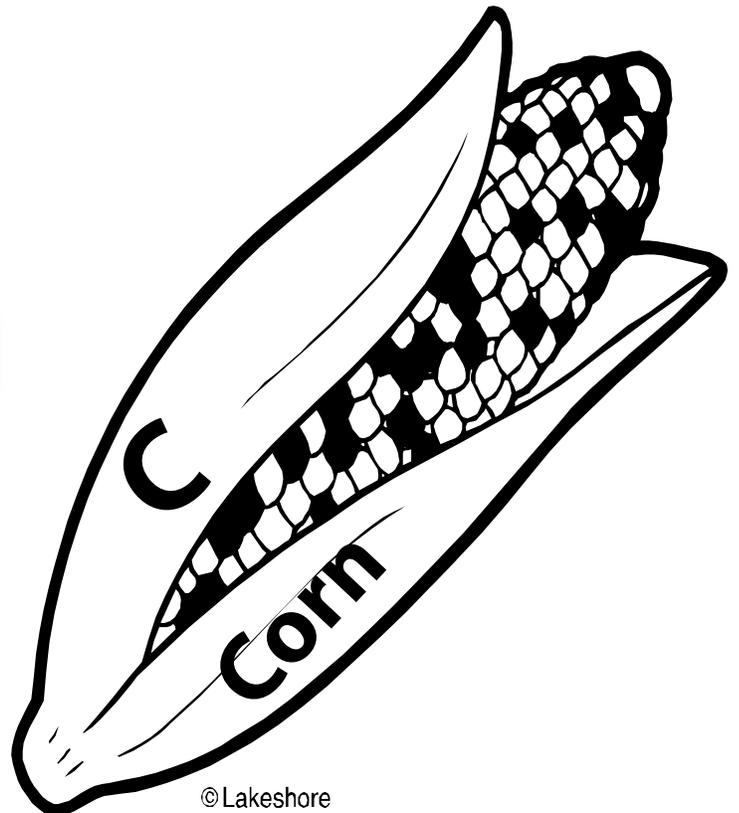
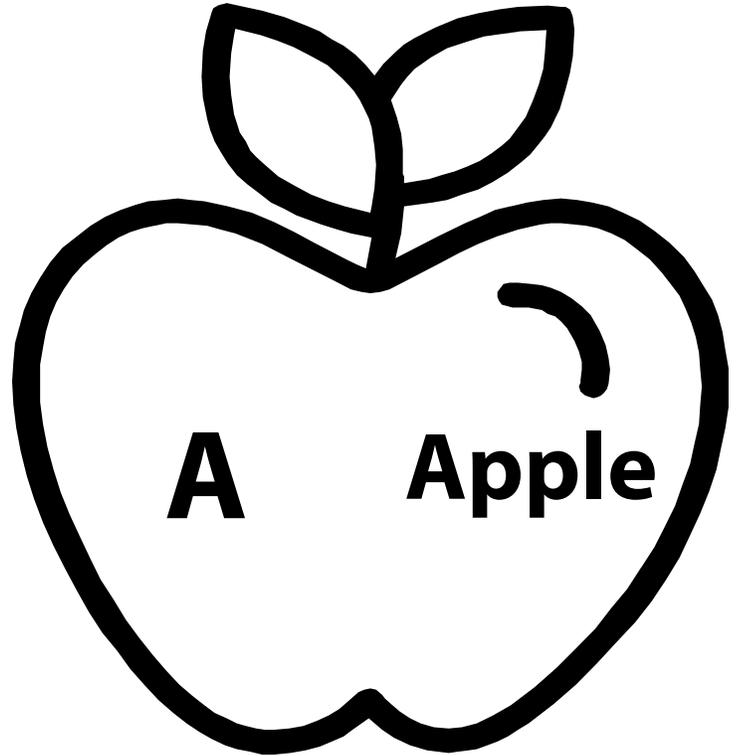


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Copy This Page, Laminate it, and Cut out the Shapes!



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