

Children's Literature Across the Curriculum Ideas

Created by students at the University of North Carolina Charlotte

Title: *Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf*

Author: Lois Ehlert

Publisher/Date: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1991.

Grade Level: K-1

Reading/Writing Connections

1. Ask children to look at front cover and title and make predictions about the book. Bring up prior knowledge about when leaves are various colors.
2. Tell students that as you all read the book, you want them to listen to see if their predictions were correct.
3. As you read the book, ask students what step in the planting process they think will come next.
4. Point out to students the bird feeders in the story. Tell students they will be making similar birdfeeders.
5. When finished reading the story, as an LEA lesson, have students retell the steps of the planting process.
6. Provide students with pinecones, peanut butter, string and birdseed. First, have students tie the string to the top of the pinecone. Next, use craft sticks to spread peanut butter on the pinecones. Finally, have students roll the pinecones in the birdseed as to cover the peanut butter with the seeds.
7. You could also have students make a mini-book using pictures and some words, depending on their ability levels, to tell the steps of making a bird feeder.

Vocabulary/Spelling

fall	garden	growing	leaf	marked
measured	nursery	roots	snow	soil
spring	sprouted	squirrels	summer	transplanted
twine	twirled	whirled	winter	yellow

Library Connections

1. Guide students to find other books on seeds, plants and gardening, such as:
The Tiny Seed by Eric Carle
Seeds and More Seeds by Millicent Selsam
From Seeds to Plants by Gail Gibbons
Your First Garden Book by Marc Brown
Peter Rabbit's Gardening Book by Sarah Garland
Let's Grow: 72 Gardening Adventures with Children by Linda Tilgner.
2. Identify this book as an information book. Have students discuss the differences between a storybook and an information book.

Art Connections

1. Collect Leaves. Use sides of crayons, lay a piece of paper over the leaf and show students how to make 'leaf rubbings'.
2. Use various materials found in nature to make a nature collage.

Language Arts/Dramatic Play

1. Have students make a nature dictionary using pictures and their own definitions from the examples at the end of the book.
2. Have students act out one of the steps in the story while others try to guess what they are doing.
3. Have students write about how they help with yard work as the child in the family seems to be a helper.

Science Connections/Math

1. Have students plant individual plants. Have them chart the growth.
2. Have students conduct a planting experiment with different soils, different amounts of sunlight, and different amounts of water. Have them make predictions about what plant(s) they think will grow the best. Have students keep journals of this and/or chart the growth of each one.
3. When individual plants have grown, have students wrap, tie and label the plant (as in the story) and bring home to plant.
4. Have students make a nature book from leaves, buds, roots, etc. found on the playground.
5. Have students graph various colors found in nature.

Social Studies Connections

1. Discuss seasons as a concept of time.
2. Discuss the correct time to plant various plants and other things that we do during specific seasons.
3. Take a field trip to a nursery. Have the workers tell about their jobs.
4. Discuss what we can do to keep the earth beautiful. Go on a 'Playground Clean-Up Mission'.

Publishing

1. Have students write and share letters to Mother Nature telling of their promises to treat the Earth appropriately.