

Leaf Man

by Lois Ehlert

Fall comes to life as children follow the wind blowing leaves and other natural elements across the country, in which all combine to create various animals and foliage.



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 things could you make out of leaves?* 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 what the leaf man's name is?

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 *Leaf Man*

- pile: a number of things heaped or stacked one on top of another
- travel: to go on a journey
- east: the compass point that lies directly opposite west
- marsh: an area alongside water with soft wet ground
- winter squash: a slow-maturing vegetable that grows on vines
- drifting: to be carried along by water or by air
- west: the compass point that lies directly opposite of east
- orchards: an area of fruit or nut trees
- prairie: a treeless grass-covered plain
- meadows: a grassy field used for producing hay or for grazing livestock
- gliding: to float or soar like a glider
- south: the compass point opposite of North
- north: the direction that lies directly 90 degrees from east
- flock: a group of birds that travel, live and feed together
- lonesome: having no one or nothing else around
- rustle: to move or work quickly and energetically

After you read:

- Where did Leaf Man live?
- Where did the wind blow Leaf Man?
- What kinds of vegetables did Leaf Man travel over?
- How many trees were in the orchard?
- What animals did Leaf Man fly over?
- How many birds were in the flock?
- How will you know if Leaf Man has come to visit?



Do

My Own Leaf Man

You will need: an assortment of artificial or real fall leaves, glue, acorns, pinecones, seeds and construction paper

After reading the story, hand each child a piece of construction paper, glue and a pile of leaves, acorns, pinecones and seeds. Have the children lay leaves out on the construction paper to create their own leaf man, animal or design. Allow them enough time to add seeds, acorns and pinecones to their designs. If desired, reinforce the designs with a hot glue gun.

Additional Activity: Combine all the new leaf creations into one classroom book.