

**Minnesota Storytime
Reading Guide**

Title: *It's Fall!*
Author: Linda Glaser
Illustrator: Susan Swan
**Publisher and
Copyright Date:** Millbrook, 2001



**Connection to
Minnesota:** Minnesota author, Minnesota publisher

Summary: This is a story in which a young child experiences the colors and textures of fall. An extensive list of nature activities to do in the fall is included. The illustrations are beautiful three-dimensional cut paper.

Suggested ages: 4-6, 7-10

Tips for Reading:

- Use your voice to express the wonder and excitement the child is feeling: It's fall! Whee!
- Give the children time to match text with the illustrations: burrowing frogs, tunneling earthworms, for example.
- Emphasize with your voice the action of verbs like swish, whoosh, and crackle.

**Questions
before reading:**

- What's the weather like outside today?
- What do you know about our four seasons?

**To Introduce
this story say:** Each season in Minnesota is different. Here's a story that will show us what fall is like for one child.

**Questions
After Reading:**

- What do you know now about fall that you didn't know before?
- How is fall different from spring? from winter? from summer?
- What do you like best about fall?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

- Art:**
- Study Susan Swan's illustrations. Make cut paper pictures of today's weather.
 - Do some of the author's suggested nature activities, such as making a seed mosaic or leaf rubbings.
- Dramatization:**
- Pantomime the actions of the child in the story: crackle through leaves, jump in leaf piles, look up at the geese and down at the burrowing earthworms, put on jackets, etc.
- Language:**
- Talk about autumn as another name for fall. Talk about the action verbs in the story and how they describe fall activities. Make a list of action verbs that describe what you can do in other seasons.
- Science:**
- Do some of the author's suggested nature activities, such as collecting leaves or wildflowers, making a leaf compost pile, etc.
- Writing:**
- Write a story to describe your own walk on a fall day.
- Suggestions for English Language Learners:**
- Talk about action verbs from the story, such as swish, crackle, whoosh and whirl. Talk about their meanings and about how these meanings are expressed in other languages.
 - Talk about seasons in the children's home countries.
- Related Books:**
- ***It's Spring!*** by Linda Glaser, illustrated by Susan Swan (Millbrook, 2002) Also: ***It's Winter!, It's Summer!***
 - ***October Smiled Back*** by Lisa Westberg Peters, illustrated by Ed Young (Henry Holt, 1996)
 - ***Autumn: An Alphabet Acrostic*** by Steven Schnur, illustrated by Leslie Evans (Clarion, 1997)
 - ***Moon Glowing*** by Elizabeth Partridge, illustrated by Joan Paley (Dutton, 2002)
 - ***In November*** by Cynthia Rylant, illustrated by Jill Kastner (Harcourt, 2000)
 - ***Why Do Leaves Change Color?*** by Betsy Maestro, illustrated by Loretta Krupinski (HarperCollins, 1994)
 - ***Harvest Home*** by Jane Yolen, illustrated by Greg Shed (Silver Whistle, 2002)
 - ***Autumn Harvest*** by Alvin Tresselt, illustrated by Roger Duvoisin (Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1951)
 - ***Autumn*** by Ruth Thomson (Childrens Press, 1994)
 - ***Fall*** by Ron Hirschi, illustrated by Thomas D. Mangelsen (Cobblehill, 1991)

