

Fallen Leaves
2018 November
2nd Grade Garden Parent Outdoor Lesson #5

Objective: To reinforce interdisciplinary math, science, literature and art lessons, by working with fallen leaves. Observe the autumn season through noticing the movement of leaves in the wind, reciting a poem, noticing the different leaves and which trees they belong to, calculating leaf area through an artistic math exercise using color pencils and graph paper. Temporal creative expression by building leaf creatures on the asphalt path, the leaf creatures will blow away and that's okay!

Time/location: The entire lesson can be done in **45 minutes** in the school garden.

Materials: A big bag full of fallen leaves to supplement what is in the garden, (*collect them from your garden or on your walk to school, it took 20min to find oak, maple, sycamore, ginko in the village, there is sassafras in garden*) graph paper <http://print-graph-paper.com/details/10mm/letter/portrait/faint>, clipboards, pencils, two color pencils per student, sit-upons

Book: *Leaf Man* by Lois Ehlert

Poem: *Who has seen the Wind?* by Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

The Lesson:

Part 1 / Read Leaf Man by Lois Ehlert **10-15 min**

- Place sit-upons by the bench and big tree, and read *Leaf Man* to the students.
- Ask them what the book was about?
- What creatures do they remember? What is the role of the wind?
- Notice the Leaf ID pages at the front/back of book.

Part 2 / Wind Observation Poetry & Movement **5 min**

- Ask students observe direction of the wind on the hill beyond the blacktop by watching the falling leaves.
- Ask students to point out the direction of the wind.
- Recite "Who has seen the wind?" by Christina Rossetti together: read a line & show a pose, students repeat.
- Ask the kids added poses and movements to help remember each line.

Who has seen the wind? by Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

Who has seen the wind?

Neither I nor you.

But when the leaves hang trembling,

The wind is passing through.

Who has seen the wind?

Neither you nor I.

But when the trees bow down their heads,

The wind is passing by.

HINT: POSES & MOVEMENTS

Make a question with your arms/hands.

Point to I and you

Make your hands tremble like leaves

Show the wind passing thru with your arms

Make a question with your hands

Point to you and I

Bend your back and bow your head

Show the wind passing thru with your arms

Part 3 / Leaf Tracing, Color Squares, 10 -Count, Area Calculation **10-15 min** After collecting 1 to 3 different kinds of leaves, students trace them on 1cm graph paper and colored the squares in bundles of 10, to help estimate their leaf area in centimeters squared.

- Pre-scatter the leaves so students can collect them after story and poem.
- (ID them beforehand so you can ID for the students as they trace)
- After collecting 1 to 3 different kinds of leaves, students trace them on 1cm graph paper
- Color the squares in bundles of 10,
- Estimate their leaf area in centimeters squared, by tallying up the squares, skip-counting in 10s.
- Write down the total number of squares: this is your estimated leaf area in cm squared.
- Write down leaf type if you like.
- If kids finish quicker than others, having them start another leaf.

Part 4 / Leaf Creatures **5-10 min**

With just a little time left, students can work individually or in groups to make their own leaf creatures.



