



Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf

Words and pictures by Lois Ehlert
Read-Aloud Activity by Pat Dragan

Before We Read: Introduce the Book

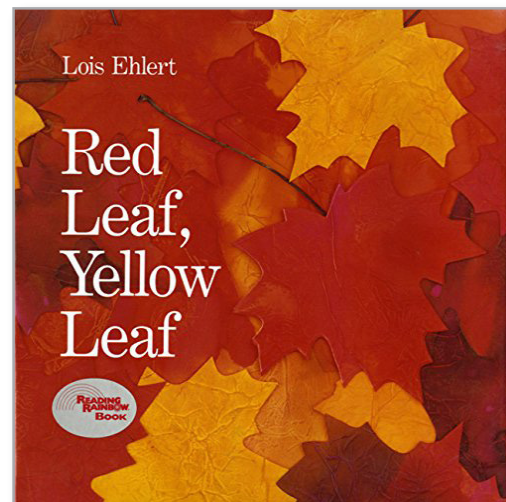
- Suggested scripted text for readers is indicated in italics with the lesson. Feel free to adapt as you wish.
- The **Now We Read** and **After We Read** sections include suggested instructions in brackets for readers.

- *The name of this book is Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf. The book was written by Lois Ehlert. She also drew the pictures. Can you guess what this book is about?*

[Give children a chance to respond.]

[Children may come up with the word “trees.” Some may also think of the words “fall” or “autumn,” as the illustrations are made in reds, browns, yellows, orange—the colors of leaves when they fall off the trees.]

[This is a good book for a picture walk. Children will have a lot to say as they look at the pictures. They will get the idea that this book provides information about leaves, trees, parts of trees, and the animals that live in them, as well as how to plant trees.]



Now We Read: Read the Book

- *This book tells us about trees. It tells about the animals and birds that live in them. This kind of writing is called “non-fiction.” That means that the book gives us information, so we can learn things that are true about trees and forests, how to plant them, ways to use them.*

After We Read: Talk about the Book

Talk to children about the book. Ask them about the things they noticed, and how they felt about what they noticed. Encourage children to share their ideas about the story and the illustrations.

- **Part of this book is like a story.** [Ask children to tell who they think is telling the story.]
- **What are some things you learned about trees?**
- **How do you think Lois Ehlert made these pictures? Do they look like drawings? Paintings? Cut out paper?**
- **Think about the pictures. Did you see changes in the seasons? What changes did you see in the trees?**
- **The end of the book tells a lot of information about trees. Can you think of some things you learned about them?**

[Children will need time to respond.]

[With this kind of non-fiction book, children will probably want to make a lot of comments, and ask questions. This is one way they digest what they are learning.]

➔ This is a book that can be shared over several days. It has a lot of information.

Optional Activities

- Invite children to use crayons to color leaves of all different colors and shapes. Display their artwork in a “Leaf Gallery.”
- Start a class list of the questions that children have about leaves, trees, and the animals that live in them. Record children’s questions on chart paper. If time allows, do some research as a group to find answers.