

Fletcher and the Falling Leaves

Notes for Educators



Introduce the author. She writes stories.
Introduce the illustrator. She draws pictures.
What do you like drawing?
What colours can you see on the cover?
What time of year do you think it is?
What is Fletcher doing?
How does it feel when you're on a swing?

Activities

Go on an autumn leaf hunt.
Can you make a leaf fox?
Look at the work of Andy Goldsworthy – environmental art.



Look at the colours of the trees. They are described as 'dusty gold'. Can you think of other words to describe them?

What is happening to Fletcher's favourite tree?

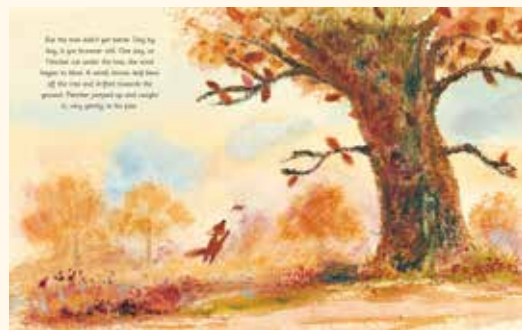
How is Fletcher feeling?

Activities

Collect leaves and twigs to create an autumn scene for imaginative play.



What is Fletcher sitting by?
Have you seen a bonfire or camp fire?
Where?
Why does Fletcher pat the tree's 'rough bark'? To reassure it.
Activities
Look at different types of tree bark.
Investigate textures.
Make bark rubbings.



What is happening to the leaves on the tree?
Activities
Matching and sorting activities with leaves – shape, size, colour.
Create pictures with leaves, stones and twigs outdoors.
Can you catch a falling leaf?



What is Fletcher standing on?
How else could he reach up high?
What is he trying to do?
Activities
Experiment with different ways to fix leaves onto twigs.





Look how the leaves are moving – twirling and whirling.

Why are they moving like that?

What do autumn leaves sound like?

Activities

Listen to Autumn from Vivaldi’s Four Seasons and paint to the music.



Who is taking leaves for a nest?

Who is taking leaves for warmth?

What does Fletcher think is happening?

How is he feeling?

Activities

Create a lost or wanted poster.



Who is helping Fletcher put the leaves back onto the tree?

How is Fletcher feeling now?

Activities

Make a Fletcher’s Feelings game – match ‘feelings’ cards to different parts of the story.



What happens while Fletcher is asleep?

How many leaves are falling?

Listen for rhyming words – ground and sound.

Activities

Think of other pairs of rhyming words.

Compose an autumn poem.



Why is Fletcher holding onto the leaf?

How did Fletcher get up the tree? He climbed.

What other movement words can you think of?

Activities

Move to music. Listen to Saint-Saëns’ Carnival of the Animals.



The leaf moves like a flag. Have you seen a flag? Where was it?

Fletcher is holding the leaf in his paw.

Do you have paws?

What else has paws?

What has hoofs? Claws? Fins?

Activities

Experiment with the wind – make flags, kites and windmills.



What does Fletcher do with the leaf? Why?

Have you looked after something? What was it?

Where does Fletcher live? A den.

Activities

Create homes for different animals. Learn the names for different animal homes.



What has happened to the tree?

How did that happen?

What makes icicles?

What time of year is it now?

Activities

Watch a film of icicles forming.

Watch ice melting. Can you make it melt faster? How?

