

Leaf Trouble

by Jonathan Emmett

Following two squirrels as they discover the beautiful changes that happen during autumn is a delight in this vibrantly illustrated and witty story.



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, *Have you ever watched a squirrel? What did it do?* 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 a squirrel would do with all those leaves?

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 Trouble*

- woodland: land that is covered with trees, shrubs and bushes
- trembling: to shake slightly but uncontrollably
- nest: a cozy, protected place or shelter for animals
- scampered: to run quickly or playfully
- skittered: to run with tiny steps
- tumbled: to fall or make one fall over something
- paws: the foot of a four-legged animal, usually having claws or nails
- collected: to gather together something
- hundreds: an unspecified large number
- frantically: to move with excitement and to be hurried
- sunset: the time at which the sun sets below the horizon in the evening

After you read:

- Where did the squirrel, Pip, live?
- In what season did the story take place?
- Why did Pip think that the leaves had changed? Did he like the change?
- How did Pip fall out of the tree?
- Who came to help Pip? What did Pip and Blossom do with leaves?
- Why wouldn't the leaves stick to the tree?
- What did Pip and Blossom's mom tell them about the leaves?
- How did Pip and Blossom enjoy the leaves that had fallen off the tree?
- What did the leaves remind Pip and Blossom of?

Do

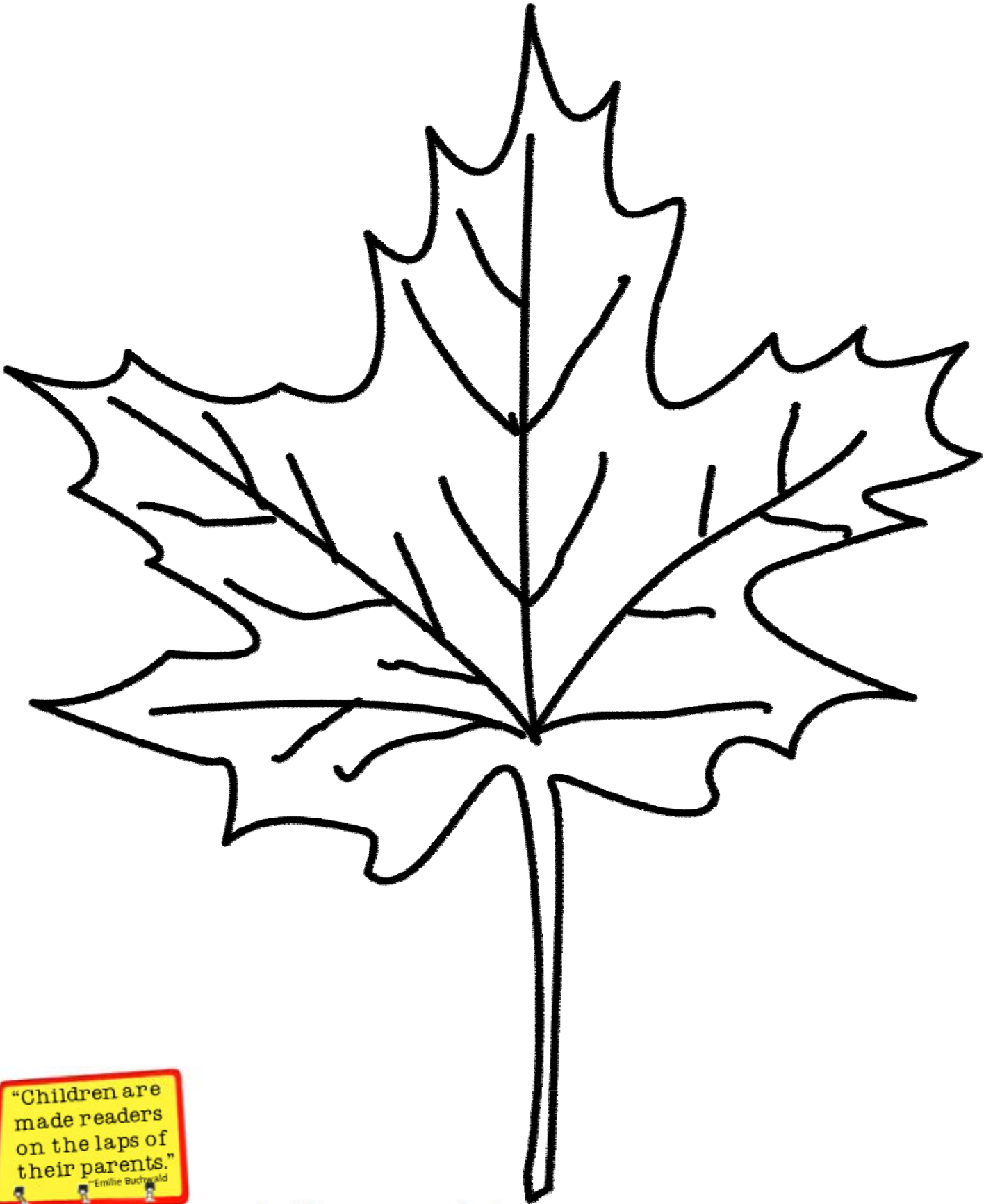
Colors of Fall

You will need: red, orange, yellow and green watercolor paints, as well as watercolor paint supplies (paint brushes, container of water and paper towels) and the *Fall Leaves* sheet.

After reading the story, discuss all of the colors found in fall leaves. Hand out the paint supplies to each child and the *Fall Leaves* sheet. Have the children paint the leaves with their favorite fall colors. If desired, hang the leaves from the ceiling to represent falling leaves.

My Name: _____

Fall Leaves



"Children are
made readers
on the laps of
their parents."
—Emilie Buchwald

R.E.D. Zone
Sponsored by Pizza Hut

www.bookitprogram.com/redzone
Visit the R.E.D. Zone for more reading-readiness printables, read-aloud tips, resources and more!