

Learning Outcomes

- To understand the different seasons
- To know that nature communicates in its own ways
- To identify the speaker
- To get familiar with the concept of personification

Summary: The wind calls out to the little leaves on a cold autumn day. They have turned to a red and a golden brown from the green they used to be in summer. The wind tells them to come in these red and gold colours as the days grow cold with the summer gone. With the whistling of the wind, the dried leaves fall down from the branches and are blown over brown fields. They appear to be dancing as they are blown by the wind. They produce a musical sound as they flutter and swirl in the wind.

They finally settle on the ground and lie there quietly and the snow spreads a thin layer over them.

Pre-reading

Note to the Teacher: The poem describes a phenomenon that is very common in western countries. Most children here, may not be able to relate to it as they would not have

witnessed it in their lifetime, except for the northern regions. Zoom the images under 'Going Further' to help students understand the seasons.

READING

Students read to comprehend and analyse

Play the audio track. / Read the poem aloud once.

Now read the poem in parts. Explain the poem and then check comprehension with relevant questions.

- *"Come, little leaves... as the days grow cold."*

Ask students:

Who is talking and to whom? What is the wind telling the leaves? Why does the wind say 'Put on your dress of red and gold'? Which part of the year is it? (Autumn) What happens to the trees at this time of the year? (The trees shed their leaves)

- *"Soon as the wind ... songs they knew."*

Ask students:

What is the wind's loud call? (As summer ends, cold wind begins to blow from the north. These winds are strong. It signifies the onset of winter. You can actually hear the sound of strong winds.) Where do the leaves move with the wind and how? Identify the rhyming words.

- *"Dancing and whirling ... coverlet over their heads."*

Ask students:

What are the leaves waiting for? (For the call of the winter wind) What happens to the leaves once they fall?" (They are covered with snow.) What happens soon after the autumn season in cold countries? (Snow begins to fall. It covers up the leaves.) Why does it feel as if the

wind and the leaves are human beings? (The wind calls out to the leaves. The leaves are described as being clothed in red and golden colours, just as humans are. They dance and sing as they move. These words that the poet has used give the wind and the leaves human traits making us feel as if they are humans.)

Spring: Light Green

Summer: Dark Green

Autumn: Mix/Shades of Red, Orange, Yellow, Brown

Winter: Dark Brown and Black covered in snow

Post-reading

Instruct students to draw four leaves, each depicting the different seasons in cold countries.

STUDENTS' BOOK ANSWER KEY

The Wind and the Leaves

Comprehension

- A.**
1. The wind said to the leaves, "Come, little leaves. Come over the meadows with me and play."
 2. The leaves came down fluttering, one and all.
 3. fluttering; whirling
 4. Dancing and whirling, the little leaves went. Winter had called them, and they were content.
 5. They fell asleep in their earthy beds.
 6. After they fell asleep, they were covered with snow
- B.**
1. *Suggested answer (accept any logical answer):* The fields are brown because before winter comes, the grass in the fields dries up and the leaves on trees become brown and start to fall.
 2. *Suggested answer (accept any logical answer):* The trees look bare and empty.

Enjoying the poem

1. Soon as the leaves heard the wind's loud call
2. Over the brown fields they danced and flew
3. Singing the soft little songs they knew

Vocabulary

1. Down they came fluttering
2. Over the brown fields they danced and flew
3. Dancing and whirling, the little leaves went

Going further

1. *Free response*
2. spring, summer, autumn, winter

QUESTION BANK

The Wind and the Leaves

A. Answer in brief.

1. Who asked the leaves to put on their dresses of red and gold?

Ans: The wind asked the leaves to put on their dresses of red and gold and play in the meadows.

2. What are the movement words used to show how the leaves moved in the wind?

Ans: The movement words used in the poem are *fluttering*, *dancing* and *whirling*.

B. Choose the right answer.

The _____ covered the leaves when they fell on the ground.

- a. soil
- b. snow
- c. wind

Ans: b

C. Read the lines and answer the questions

1. *"Come, little leaves," said the wind one day,
"Come over the meadows with me and play.*

- a. When did the wind call the leaves?
- b. What did the wind ask the leaves to put on?

Ans: a. The wind called the leaves in autumn.

b. The wind asked the leaves to put on their dresses of red and gold.

2. *Over the brown fields they danced and flew,
Singing the soft little songs they knew.*

- a. Who danced and where?
- b. What did they sing?

Ans: a. The leaves danced over the brown fields.

b. They sang soft little songs.

D. Think and answer.

What would happen if there was no wind?

Ans: If there was no wind, the leaves would not be able to fall off the trees at the right time. The leaves would fall down from the trees one by one.