

The Last Leaf

by Elizabeth Trach

During the warm summer, there were many leaves on the tall tree in the park. Some leaves were big. Some leaves were small. All the leaves were green. They liked to whisper together when the breeze blew. When the rain fell, the little leaves would get wet. They didn't mind. They knew that the sun would come out again to dry them. Best of all, they were all together.

As time went on, the days began to get shorter. The sun set earlier. The air was colder too. By October, many of the leaves changed colors. Some were yellow. Some looked more orange. And some even had red around their edges. Each morning the leaves would wake up to see who had changed colors.

The first leaves to change colors began to fall off the tree. "Goodbye!" they called as they fluttered down to the ground. Sometimes the wind would blow and whisk them far away. "Whee!" they would laugh as they floated away.

One night a wind storm whipped through the park. By morning, there were only three little leaves left on the tree. One was yellow. One was golden brown. One was still green with just one yellow spot.

"Oh!" said the golden brown leaf. "I feel very light! One more breeze, and I'll be ready to fly away."

"Me too!" said the green leaf.

"No," said the yellow leaf. "You need to change colors before you are ready to fall. You're still green."

A breeze stirred the branches, and the golden brown leaf fluttered. "This is it! Goodbye!" he called as he flew away.

The green leaf sighed. "I'll never get to fly," he pouted.

"Sure you will! All leaves fall off eventually," said the yellow leaf.

The breeze blew again, and this time rain began to fall. "Here I go!" called the yellow leaf. "Goodbye!" And she floated to the ground.

The green leaf was about to cry. He felt lonely all by himself on the tree.

Just then, a small bird landed on the branch below the leaf. "I'm so glad I found you! Can I hide here until it stops raining? If I get wet, I will feel very cold," said the bird.

"Sure!" said the green leaf. He wasn't lonely anymore. He felt proud to be the last leaf on the tree to help the bird stay dry.

Questions

1. What color are the leaves in the summer?
2. After the wind storm, how many leaves are left on the tree?
3. How does the green leaf feel about being the last to fall?
4. If you were a leaf, what color would you like to be in the fall?

This passage includes words that students should learn to recognize on sight. We've highlighted 12 of these words below, from the Dolch sight word list for Pre-K through 1st, 2nd and/or 3rd grade. Tip: Read through the passage once with your student. Read a second time, but pause on the sight word and ask your student to say the word.

Sight Word List

1. down
2. little
3. brown
4. too
5. will
6. call
7. cold
8. just
9. best
10. green
11. laugh
12. bird

Print and cut-out the flash cards below. Show each sight word to your student and ask them to say the word.

down

little

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