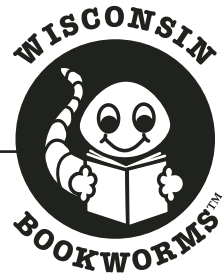


# WISCONSIN BOOKWORMS™

# Activity Sheet



## I Know it's Autumn

By Eileen Spinelli, illustrated by Nancy Hayashi

I know it's autumn when we rake the leaves in piles, when doorstep jack-o-lanterns wear their crooked smile ...

**Before you read this book:** Make leaf-shaped name tags for everyone in your group. Decorate your classroom or home with more leaves made from construction paper. (How many different autumn colors can you use?)

**While you read this book:** Enjoy the rhyme of the story. Ask your children "How do you know when it's autumn?" What about other seasons? Read the book again to look for fun autumn activities: what are their favorites (picking apples, hayrides, raking leaves)? Invite your kids to show everyone how to pick an apple. Reach up, pick it and put it in the basket. How do you rake leaves? Hold the rake, bring the leaves together and make a pile.

**Reading Tip:** Show your children the cover of the book. What are they doing in the picture? Ask if they can guess what the story is about.

**After you read this book:** Draw pictures using autumn colors — ask your kids to help pick out the special colors of autumn (brown, gold, etc.). Make acorn art. Collect or purchase acorns, pipe cleaners, straws, paper and glue to make acorn people (just like the book). Invite everyone to add his or her leaf-shaped nametags to make a tree on a bulletin board.

Move around like falling leaves. Talk about the ways leaves fall from trees — swirling, drifting, landing near and far. Play "Autumn Leaves" or a waltz tune. Tell your kids you are the tree and they are the leaves. At first, all of the leaves are attached; so they must all stand near you or touch you. Pretend a little wind is beginning to rustle the leaves. Have a few leaves blow away and begin to dance on the wind. Then, a large gust of wind comes along and blows most of the leaves. Continue with slow gentle winds and gusts of wind until all your leaves are dancing in the breeze. When the music stops, all the leaves should be on the ground and ready to be raked.

**At home:** Share food from fall (apples, apple pie, pumpkin pie and apple cider).

**Also read:** "My Favorite Time of the Year" by Susan Pearson, illustrated by John Wallner

WISCONSIN BOOKWORMS™: Giving young children an opportunity to be read to and own their first new books, this project is supported by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting with additional funding provided by Friends of WHA-TV Inc, WAHCE and local county-based partners.