



October Story Time Ideas from the Elm Grove Library

Try creating a story time at home by using some of the elements below. Whatever your child's age, story time provides an opportunity to play with language and engage with your child.

- Rhymes hold the attention of young children and help early readers identify words.
- Singing simple songs enhances a child's ability to hear syllables and pronunciation.
- Point to words on the page sometimes so your child recognizes that the words you are saying are printed on the pages.
- Ask questions along the way to help your child think about the story or predict what might happen.
- Coloring or drawing a picture strengthens a child's ability to hold a pencil or crayon which is the first step in writing. It can also help your child make connections between the story and their own experiences.

Rhymes

Five Little Pumpkins

Five little pumpkins sitting on a gate (hold up hand)
The first one said "Oh my, it's getting late!" (point to first finger)
The second one said "There are witches in the air" (point to second finger)
The third one said "Hey, I don't care!" (point to third finger)
The fourth one said "Let's run and run and run" (point to fourth finger)
The fifth one said "I'm ready for some fun!" (point to thumb)
Then hooooo went the wind
And OUT went the light (clap on OUT)
And the five little pumpkins rolled out of sight. (close hand and put behind back)

My Pumpkin Seed

I had a little pumpkin seed, I put it in the ground. (pinch thumb and finger together and touch floor)
I listened and I listened but it didn't make a sound. (cup ear with hand)
It grew so very fat and it grew so very high, (arms rounded at sides then reach above head)
I took it home to mommy and she made me pumpkin pie! (YUM)

Can You Guess? By Susan Olson Higgins

Figure out the rhyming word needed to complete each stanza. (The answer is provided.)

Way out back where the pumpkins grow,
Sitting on the shoulder of the old scarecrow,
A feathery friend caws high and low,
He's a black and noisy Halloween _____(crow)

Floating quietly through the air
You're not sure if he's here or there,
You can't see him, but he's friendly to most,
You can guess! He's a Halloween _____(ghost)

You might hear a cackle or a broom sweep by
As she flies toward the moon riding high in the sky
She'll sail right over a mountain or a ditch.
She is know as a Halloween _____(witch)

Five Fall Leaves

Five fall leaves hanging on a tree (hold up five fingers)
The green one said, "I haven't changed, you see."
The yellow one said, "I'm as bright as the sun."
The orange one said, "No, I'm the brightest one."
The orange one said, "Hey, I don't care."
The gold one said, "Let's dance in the air."
So when the fall wind gently blew (blow)
The leaves came off the tree and away they flew. (flutter hand through air)
They swirled and twirled, around and around
And then drifted softly to the ground. (drift hands to the floor)

Five Red Apples

Five red apples hanging in a tree (hold up five fingers)
The juiciest apples you ever did see.
The wind came by and gave an angry frown
And one little apple came tumbling down.

(Continue with four red apples, hanging in a tree, etc... holding up one less finger each time)

Songs – once you have learned these songs, try adding more verses!

All the Leaves are Falling Down

Sung to: London Bridge is Falling Down

All the leaves are falling down, falling down, falling down
All the leaves are falling down
It is autumn.

They are yellow, red and brown, red and brown, red and brown
They are yellow, red and brown
It is autumn.

Take the leaves and crunch them up, crunch them up, crunch them up
Take the leaves and crunch them up
It is autumn.

Mr. Pumpkin

Sung to: Where is Thumbkin? also, Frere Jacques

Mr. Pumpkin - Mr. Pumpkin

Round and fat - Round and fat

Harvest time is coming - Harvest time is coming

Yum, yum, yum – yum, yum, yum!

The Leaves on the Trees

Sung to: The Wheels on the Bus

The leaves on the trees turn orange and brown, orange and brown, orange and brown

The leaves on the trees turn orange and brown

All through the town!

The leaves on the trees come tumbling down, tumbling down, tumbling down

The leaves on the trees come tumbling down

All through the town!

The leaves on the ground go swish, swish, swish,

Swish, swish, swish

Swish, swish, swish

The leaves on the ground go swish, swish, swish

All through the town!

Recorded song to try:

What Falls in the Fall by Laurie Berkner (CD title: Whaddaya Think of That?)

Find it at the Elm Grove Library or on Youtube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=luj4bfyjahg>

Picture Books for Fall (there are many more than this but this will get you started!)

Bella's Fall Coat by Lynn Plourde – An outgrown coat teaches Bella about change.

Clifford's First Autumn by Norman Bridwell – Clifford the Big Red Dog series.

Ducking for Apples by Lynne Berry – Rhyming text about apple picking.

Fletcher and the Falling Leaves by Julia Rawlinson – A little fox learns about fall.

Full of Fall by April Pulley Sayre – Photos of fall color.

The Ghost-Eye Tree by Bill Martin – A little brother has to face his fear of a spooky tree.

The Grasshopper and the Ants illustrated by Jerry Pinkney – A fable about preparing for winter.

The Great Pumpkin Contest by Angela Rozelaar – Can two neighbors go from being competitors to friends?

Leaf Man by Lois Ehlert – Collage art with leaves and found objects.

Leaves by David Ezra Stein – A bear learns about hibernating.

The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything by Linda Williams – A little scary but it ends well.

The Lonely Scarecrow by Tim Preston – A scarecrow wants friends.

Pumpkin Heads! By Wendell Minor – Simple story with some creative pumpkin carving.

Rain by Sam Usher – A rainy day can feed the imagination.

Runaway Pumpkin by Kevin Lewis – Rhyming text about a giant pumpkin.

The Scarecrow by Beth Ferry – Scarecrow saves a small crow.

Scarecrow Magic by Ed Masessa – Scarecrow comes alive at night to play with ghostly friends.

Sheep Trick or Treat by Nancy Shaw – Rhyming text about barnyard trick-or-treat.

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