

Autumn Read Aloud Guide

Pre-K and Kindergarten • Ages 4-6 • About 15-20 minutes

Turn rhyming autumn riddles into a shared guessing game. Children practice listening for details, using clues to make a guess, exploring seasonal vocabulary, and noticing rhyme.

Get ready

You need: the autumn book, paper, and crayons. Preview the book and choose a few riddles if your group needs a shorter session. Plan how to keep each answer out of view until children have guessed.

1 Connect and introduce | 2 minutes

Show the cover. Ask, “What have you noticed outdoors in autumn?” Welcome different experiences. Explain: “A riddle gives us clues. We listen, think, and use those clues to guess.” Practice the routine: think quietly, put a thumb against your chest when ready, and wait to share.

2 Read and solve together | 7-9 minutes

Read each riddle all the way through with a natural rhythm. Pause at “What am I?” and give everyone a few seconds to think. Invite two or three guesses before revealing the answer. Ask, “Which clue helped you?” Then reveal and name the answer together. Connect it to the clues, welcoming thoughtful guesses even when they differ from the answer.

Squirrel: “Which clues fit a squirrel? Show me a bushy tail with your hands.”

Corn: “What tells us this is a plant? Reach up as tall as a corn stalk!”

Briefly explain unfamiliar words, such as bushy (thick and full) or stalk (a plant’s main stem).

3 Listen for rhyme | 2 minutes

Revisit one or two riddles after the answers are known. Say tree / see and fall / tall. Ask children to echo the pairs: “These words rhyme. Their endings sound alike.” For an extra challenge, invite another word that rhymes with tree.

4 Make a class riddle | 4-5 minutes

Invite children to draw an autumn animal, plant, or object from the book. Help them tell or dictate two clues without naming it: “It has _____. It can _____.” Let partners guess, then share a few with the class. Children’s riddles do not need to rhyme.

Help everyone join in

Offer support: reread a key clue, add a gesture, or offer two choices. Accept pointing, acting, and home-language responses.

Extend: ask children to explain how two clues fit their answer or help write a clue.

Notice: Can each child use a clue, explain a guess, or recognize a rhyming pair? Revisit one skill during the next reading.