

BELLA'S FALL COAT

BELLA'S FALL COAT ACTIVITIES

***After reading this book, go back through the illustrations and make a list of all the fall/autumn things you see in the book (i.e. acorn, apples). How many can you find? Now make a list of other fall things that were not included in this book (i.e. pumpkins, pears). How many do you have on that list?**

***Have a fall scavenger hunt. Make a list of 5-10 fall items to find on a search outside in the fall (Hint: depending upon your location, the hunt might mean children gather what is on the list or simply “spy” and check off what is on the list). You can individualize the list for your area, but some options are listed below . . .**

red leaf

orange leaf

yellow leaf

brown leaf

maple tree

beech tree

acorn

maple leaf

oak leaf

gourd

oak tree

apple tree

pine needles

pumpkin

mum

acorn cap

ash tree

rake

***Gather some fall leaves and then sort and organize them as many ways as possible: largest to smallest, smallest to largest, red-not red, yellow-not yellow, orange-not orange, brown-not brown, maple leaves-not maple leaves, oak leaves-not oak leaves, beech leaves-not beech leaves, ash leaves-not ash leaves; leaves with one color-leaves with more than one color.**

***Bella has many “favorites” in this book. Talk about your “favorites.” What are your favorite foods, colors, people, animals, books, etc.? Make a chart for your class or family compiling everyone’s favorites.**

***Bella is at Grams (her grandmother's) house in this story. Do you think she lives with her grandmother or is visiting her? Why do you think that? Do some children live with their grandparents?**

***Bella calls her grandmother Grams. Author Lynn Plourde called her grandmother Mémère. What are some other names for grandmothers? Make a list. Make a list for grandfather names too.**

***Bella's grandmother sews her a coat. Do you know someone who sews clothes? Have you ever tried sewing something? Do you think more people sew things now or in the olden days—why?**

***Bella's Grams makes apple tarts with the apples Bella picks. Make a favorite family apple recipe with your family. Share a copy of your family's apple recipe with your class and gather everyone's recipes into a class recipe booklet. Alternatives: favorite pumpkin recipe, favorite fall soup recipe, any favorite fall recipe**

***Read the book *Leaf Man* by Lois Ehlert or *Wild Child* by Lynn Plourde and Greg Couch. Then gather fall leaves and make your own "leaf people/creatures" arranging and gluing the leaves to look like people, animals, or creatures.**

***Here's a tricky word . . . onomatopoeia. Repeat it after your teacher a couple of times. Onomatopoeia means sounds words; that is, words that sound like sounds. *Bella's Fall Coat* has sound words like *whoosh, crinkle, crackle, whizz*. Try to find all the sound words in this book. Make a list of them and then make a list with more sound words. Try to use onomatopoeia, sound words when you write (i.e. The elephant stomped. Mama hushed the baby. The light went flash-flash!)**