

The Little Yellow Leaf

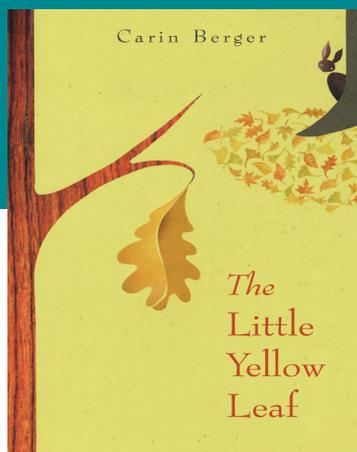
Karen Abbott

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Book Review

The Little Yellow Leaf

Author

Carin Berger

Illustrator

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Reviewer

Karen Abbott

Rating

Outstanding

Level

Preschool, Primary

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Pages

40

Year

2008

Publisher

Greenwillow Books

ISBN

9780061452239

Fall is a beautiful time of year with rich colors, smokey smells, and wonderful harvest foods. One lingering leaf holds on to its branch, not ready to let go quite yet. This little leaf holds on as other leaves let go, as the sun shines hotly down, as pumpkins ripen in the fields, and as children play. As snow starts to shimmer on the branches, another leaf is holding out too. A lovely red one. The leaves count down to three and each releases its grip to whirl and twirl on the wind!

This picture book is a beautiful homage to fall with words and collages that interweave across each page to create a subtle dance of sound, texture, and emotion. The placement of the words on the page is done in a way to enhance their message and their connection to the image that belongs to them. Different perspectives are used in the artwork that lend a new view to the season and interest to the art. At the point in the story where the leaves meet, the reader is looking down on the tree which is almost circular and resembles a complicated snowflake. The snowflakeness adds to the winter chill that is creeping into the book and puts the leaves on an equal standing that increases the feeling of friendship between them. This is a book that will increase a reader's appreciation of the fall season and of art and words in general. Enthusiastic, almost euphoric five-star rating on this one.