

Leaf Man  
Written and Illustrated by Lois Ehlert  
Harcourt, Inc.  
2005

### **About the Author and Illustrator**



Lois Ehlert has always been interested in creating things. Even as a little girl, she loved to sew scraps of fabric together beside her mother or make something out of the lumber scraps her father had in his basement workshop. Even though Lois likes to play with a variety of different materials and art mediums, her favorite has always been and continues to be collage. In fact, Leaf Man is a prime example of her talented work with this particular art form. She used leaves to create leaf man who travels wherever the wind blows. Over the years, Lois has written many, many children's books and illustrated most of them herself. She has been nominated for both a Caldecott Award and a Young Hoosier Book Award for her great work as both an author and an illustrator.

#### **Book Awards**

1990 Caldecott Honor Book for Color Zoo  
2007-2008 Young Hoosier Book Award Nominee for Leaf Man

#### **Other Books by this Author**

Snowballs  
Eating the Alphabet  
Color Farm  
Color Zoo  
Market Day: A Story Told with Folk Art  
Hands: Growing up to be an Artist  
Waiting for Wings  
A Pair of Socks  
Fish Eyes: A Book You Can Count On  
Planting a Rainbow  
Feathers for Lunch  
Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf  
Growing Vegetable Soup  
Nuts to You!  
Moon Rope

Wag a Tail  
Top Cat  
Pie in the Sky  
Oodles of Animals

**Annotation**

Ehlert, Lois. Leaf Man. Harcourt, Inc. 2005.

All young readers will love this delightful book about a man made of leaves. The author/illustrator takes readers on a journey throughout the countryside following a leaf man who can only go where the wind blows him. However, the wind takes him on a great adventure through pastures, over lakes, and even flying with butterflies. The collage illustrations are created from leaves, varying in color, shape, and size. Between the fun illustrations and the great story, this is a book all teachers will want to read to young learners.

**Genre**

Animals and Nature Fiction Picture storybook

**Point of View**

1<sup>st</sup> person

**Setting**

The setting is throughout the countryside in late fall.

**Theme**

Sometimes we just have to go where the wind blows.

**Conflict**

External Conflict-Leaf Man is traveling wherever the wind takes him and he is possibly lonely and wants to stop.

**Conflict Resolution**

He may eventually find a home.

**Characters**

Leaf Man, chickens, ducks, geese, turkey, spotted cows, butterflies, birds

**Interest Level**

K-2

**Reading Level**

2.4

**Booktalk**

Would you like to go on a journey with Leaf Man? If so, then come with me. We will go here and there and everywhere. We will see all kinds of plants and animals and rivers and lakes. And the best thing of all...every time the wind blows, we will be off to a new adventure. But, will we ever land? Will the big adventure ever end? Come along with me and you shall see.

**Language**

marsh (pg. 7)-an area of low land that is filled with water

squash (pg. 10)-a yellow fruit similar to zucchini  
drifting (pg. 14)-floating away  
orchards (pg. 14)-places where trees are grown  
gliding (pg. 19)-flying very smoothly, almost like floating  
flock (pg. 28)-group of animals  
lonesome (pg. 30)-all by yourself, alone  
rustle (pg. 32)-move and make noise

**Indiana Academic Standards**

English/LA: K.1.1, K.1.3, K.1.20, K.1.22, K.2.1, 1.1.15, 1.1.18, 1.2.1, 1.3.4, 2.3.6,  
2.7.1

Science: K.1.1, K.4.2, 1.4.1, 1.4.2, 2.4.4

Social Studies: K.3.1, K.3.5, 1.3.1, 1.3.6, 2.3.1, 3.3.1

**Anticipation Statements**

	Agree or Disagree	Page Number?	Were you right?	Reflect
1.All leaves are the same size.				
2. The wind blows in four different directions.				
3. Some leaves look like animals.				
4. The wind cannot blow a leaf very far.				
5. People can do some neat things with leaves.				

**“If you like, you’ll love...”**

Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf by Lois Ehlert

Why Do Leaves Change Color? by Betsy Maestro

It’s Fall by Linda Glaser

Look What I Did with a Leaf by Morteza E. Sohi

**Resources**

This is an informational site about wind that will help students learn more about how wind works and how it helped Leaf Man travel to so many neat places.

<http://www.weatherwizkids.com/wind1.htm>

This is a great activity book that has all kinds of fun fall ideas to use in conjunction

with reading Leaf Man.  
Charner, Kathy. Everything for Fall. Gryphon House Books.1997.

### **Book Activities**

#### **Activity One**

#### **Individual Activity**

#### **Create Your Own Leaf Man**

Have students create their very own leaf man. You can either go to the website below to print off the pieces needed to make one, or you can go on a leaf hunt around the school to help students find their very own leaves. If you do this, let leaves dry out for several days inside heavy books. When leaves or printouts are ready, make sure all students have plenty of leaves to get started. Then have students arrange their leaves (and color them if you use the printable ones) before passing out the glue. Once they have arranged their leaves, glued them down, and named their leaf man, hang them in the room or hallway for all to see. Other students in the classroom or school will love to see these “men”!



[http://www.harcourtbooks.com/Images/LeafMan/0152053042-activity\\_sheet.pdf](http://www.harcourtbooks.com/Images/LeafMan/0152053042-activity_sheet.pdf)

Supplies: leaves or leaf cut-outs, crayons, markers, colored pencils, glue

#### Standards

Math: 1.4.1, 2.4.3, 3.4.5

Science: 1.5.3, 3.2.4

#### **Activity Two**

#### **Individual Activity**

After reading Leaf Man and the directions he travels because of the wind, have students continue Leaf Man’s journey through the wilderness. Their assignment will be to create a little adventure for Leaf Man after he leaves the birds in the mountain. They will pick right up where the author left off and plan at least 5 more places for him to visit and animals to see. Students will need to use the four directions, north, south, east, and west, in their writing and be very descriptive. Also, they will need to include an illustration with each new part of the story. This should only take 2 or 3 days of class time (20-30 minutes each). When students are all finished, have them share their writing and pictures in small groups.

Supplies: several copies of Leaf Man, paper, pencils, crayons, markers, colored pencils, lots of different shapes of leaf cut-outs

Standards

English: K.4.1, K.4.3, K.5.1, K.7.3, 1.5.4, 2.3.2, 3.5.4

Math: K.4.3, 1.4.6

Social Studies: K.3.1, K.3.5, 1.3.1, 1.3.6, 3.3.5

**Curriculum Connections**

- Take children on a walk around the inside and outside of your school. While walking, remind them to really look at all the things around them and remember these things for when you get back. Once back in the classroom, discuss all the different things the students saw. Ask them if they were to go on a journey through their school, what kinds of things would they see? If you really want to take this further, you could even write a class book about their possible adventure.

Standards

Science: K.1.1, K.4.2, K.6.1, 1.3.5, 1.4.2, 2.4.4

- Have students learn this finger play and song. They can even make finger puppets for the play and create dance moves to the song.

5 Little Leaves

5 little leaves so bright and gay  
Were dancing about a tree one day  
The wind came blowing through the town  
1 little leaf came blowing down,  
4 little leaves, etc....,

For this finger play you can make colored leaves out of felt or tag board on tongue depressors.

Fall Leaves

Have children act out the appropriate movements as they recite the poem.

Down, down,  
Yellow and brown.  
Fall the leaves  
All over the ground.  
Rake them up  
In a pile so high,  
They almost reach  
Up to the sky.

Standards

English: K.7.4, 1.7.6, 2.1.6, 2.7.6, 2.7.13, 3.7.5

### **Discussion Questions**

#### **Pre-Reading**

(cover) What do you think this story will be about?

Have you ever seen a person made out of leaves?

How about any other objects or animals made out of leaves? What about in the clouds?

#### **During Reading**

(pages 5-6) Where do you think Leaf Man is now?

(pages 9-10) How about now?

(pages 13-14) Use the picture to help you... what do you think an orchard is?

#### **Post-Reading**

If we were to go outside right now, do you think you would be able to find a person or animal in the leaves?

Where all did Leaf Man travel?

Are there any other places you think Leaf Man might go before his travels are done?

Do you think Leaf Man is lonesome?

### **Bibliography**

About Lois Ehlert

<http://www.friend.ly.net/users/jorban/biographies/ehlertlois/index.html>

Lois Ehlert books

[http://books.google.com/books?as\\_auth=Lois+Ehlert](http://books.google.com/books?as_auth=Lois+Ehlert)

Reading Levels

<http://bookwizard.scholastic.com/tbw/viewWorkDetail.do?workId=1155019>

Similar Books

<http://www.amazon.com/Notable-Childrens-Books-Younger-Readers/dp/0152053042>