

Leaf

by Stephen Michael King

A sweet wordless book filled with beautiful watercolor illustrations that tell the story of a boy and his budding friendship with a plant.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *Have you ever been afraid of getting a hair cut?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder how that plant is growing out of his head?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. The illustrations in this book are very detailed so allow plenty of time for the children to look.

After you read:

- What did the boy's mother want to do with his hair?
- How did the boy react?
- Where did the boy hide?
- What did the bird drop in the boy's hair?
- What happened to the boy's hair after the seed was dropped in it?
- What sorts of things did the boy and his dog do all day?
- What did the boy do with the watering can?
- How did the boy sneak into his house?
- Describe what the boy did as he got ready for bed.
- What did the boy dream about?
- Did the boy ever get a haircut?
- What happened to the plant?
- How did the boy take care of the plant?
- What did the plant grow into?
- Who visited the plant when it grew into a tree?

Do

Leaf Rubbings

You will need: an assortment of real or artificial leaves, crayons (with no wrappings), chalk and white paper

After reading the story, hand out the paper, crayons or chalk and leaves to each child. Place a leaf underneath the paper and by using the side of the crayon or chalk rub over the leaf. After a few seconds the leaf outline will appear. The more the children rub the crayons/chalk over the leaf, the more details will appear.