



Leaves

David Ezra Stein

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It's a young bear's first autumn, and the falling leaves surprise him. He tries to put them back on the trees, but it doesn't work. Eventually, he gets sleepy, and burrows into the fallen leaves for a long nap. When he wakes up, it's spring and there are suddenly brand-new leaves all around, welcoming him. Graceful illustrations and a childlike main character offer the perfect way to talk to children about the wonder of the changing seasons.

Leaves Details

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Author : David Ezra Stein

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From Reader Review Leaves for online ebook

J Marsano says

This board book has quickly become a favorite in the house, and by "house" I mean, in my toddler son's mind. The story is simple--a bear catches falling leaves, hibernates, and wakes in Spring. There are a couple of rhymes, which pushes the short story along nicely. Do the leaves in Spring really 'welcome' the bear? Yes, according to the story, which in my mind makes the story a little too sugary. Even toddlers can stand a better sugar/acid balance.

Sugar/Acid Balance (Will You Go Crazy if You Have to Read this More than 10 Times?)

You will probably not go crazy/become homicidal. It's a nice, compact little story, even if there's a little too much Me-Generation at the end.

Agn? says

David Ezra Stein's sketchy, loosely colored illustrations seem effortless and expressive (and I LOVE the colors):

But the story is a little bit choppy and kinda cheesy, especially the ending.

Kaylin Matejek says

This young bear is experiencing his first autumn and grows concerned when he sees all the leaves falling off the trees. He tries to put them back on the tree, but he finds that it isn't quite the same. The bear provides insight into a sweet realization of the changing seasons. David Ezra Stein has written and illustrated a cute book filled with good information for young children about the seasons and bears. In my opinion this book is best suited for children up to age 4 or possibly a kindergarten classroom.

Baby Bookworm says

This review was originally written for The Baby Bookworm. Visit us for new picture books reviews daily!

Hello, everybody! Our book today is *Leaves* by David Ezra Stein, a sweet and simple read about a bear's first autumn.

Bear has enjoyed his first year, having spent it exploring his lovely forest. But as the weather turns colder, Bear is very surprised to see the leaves change colors, then begin falling off the tree. First one, then another, then lots and lots, falling into colorful piles on the ground. Bear tries to reattach the leaves, but it's not the same. Finally, Bear finds that he has grown very tired, and takes some of the fallen leaves to a den in the ground, falling into a deep sleep as snow coats the ground. And when he wakes up again in spring, he is glad to find that the trees are looking much better, and are even beginning to sprout brand new leaves.

This was a very nice and pretty straightforward autumn story, complete with woodland animals, falling leaves, and learning about the change of seasons. It hit a lot of positives for us: it was very sweet, had fun, playful illustrations and a charming main character, and a perfect length for little readers. It's a perfectly fine book, but to be honest, nothing about it blew us away. Truth be told, JJ seemed a bit bored with this one, and it didn't really make a lasting impression on me. It's a fine fall book; covers the basics, but ultimately feels a bit formulaic (it didn't help that the plot was strikingly similar to *Fletcher And The Falling Leaves* by Julia Rawlinson, which featured many of the same beats but with a breathtakingly gorgeous final page). But ultimately, it's still a very enjoyable book about falling leaves and the changing seasons, and we liked it fine. Baby Bookworm approved!

Be sure to check out The Baby Bookworm for more reviews!

Bailey Kimball says

I enjoyed this book because it is about a cute, curious bear that is learning how the world works during his first year and is immensely intrigued by the leaves. I thought it was cute how he was trying to put the leaves back on the tree after they fell off. I think that this is perfectly appropriate for the intended age group because it teaches two things to young children: they can learn more about bears and the different seasons. Young children can learn that bears hibernate during the winter months in an isolated place, and they, also, learn how the different seasons work in a different perspective than just being told the basics about every season. I think that the style in the illustrations is cartoon because they are unrealistic and look as they belong in a cartoon show/movie. The bear's feet are larger than anything else on its body, the leaves do not resemble real leaves, the hill and the island do not look like realistic islands and hills, the trees look like they are in cartoons, and the fox looks like a cartoon fox, as well. I think that the medium used in the book is watercolor paint because they are very dull and transparent. The bear is a light grey with a blue tint and darker on some spots, but the lighter spots of the bear are transparent. Watercolor, also, has a tendency to look as though there are water spots and some of the features of the book appear to have the watery spot on them. I enjoyed the illustrations because I thought they were cute and complimented the book very well. While using this with children, I would have them read it and do an activity where they write a mini picture book about their favorite season and why it is their favorite season. I like the cover of the book because I think it displays the curiosity of the bear. I, also, like the back of the cover because of the phrase on it and he does look as though he is enjoying the season.

Jennifer (JenIsNotaBookSnob) says

I reread this with my daughter recently and decided to adjust my rating on this picture book. At first glance this is a really simple picture book without too much going on. However, if you take a second look, you can see that there's a bit more to this if you're willing to linger over the illustrations.

The issue I took with this book the first time around was that the bear is alone in his first year. Usually, a bear cub will hibernate with his mother. In the case of black bears, they are born around January and hibernate, stay with mom all through the growing season and then hibernate one more time with mom before breaking off on their own during the following June or so. Immediately then, this book grated me the wrong way because I was perplexed as to why this bear would be on his own at this point. A bear cub will usually experience autumn with a mother bear already familiar with the season.

Now, I don't know if David Ezra Stein intended this for his story, but orphaned bears will hibernate alone if their mother lived long enough for them to get big enough. For black bears, that's 30 lbs. I'm guessing then that this bear cub is meant to be an orphaned bear who has to experience his first autumn alone. That adds a layer to the story that wasn't evident at first glance. That makes this story about not just changing seasons, but, learning to cope with other changes as well. The bear is initially resistant to these changes, trying to put the leaves back on the trees, but, eventually does the right thing and builds a den. He is welcomed in the spring by the return of the leaves.

I don't know if it's necessary to point out the missing mother bear in the story to small children, but, it made this brief picture book more meaningful for me.

Adrienne says

LEAVES

This is a cute story.

Kids and little ones, as this one-year-old bear is described to be, often misattribute human-like characteristics to inanimate objects. So, the story mostly makes sense in context.

However, the last page, which states that the bear thinks the leaves "welcome" him, is just bizarre. Or saccharine. Or confusing to small children. Take your pick.

Jessie Bear says

A young bear experiences the changing of seasons for the first time in this heartwarming book. The bear wonders at the falling of the first leaf, and awakens after hibernation delighted to find the first buds of spring. The format and syntax of the story is simple enough to use as a transition from board books to regular picture books. Large type face and sparse text place an emphasis on the soft and inviting illustrations. These endearing pictures are simple and accessible, perfect for a young audience but also pleasing to an older reader. While some of the illustrations simply feature the leaves and the bear, others give readers a simple depiction of a season, such as the last illustration which shows the bear, a few new spring leaves, and the last remnants of winter snow. As the young bear experiences and learns about seasons, so too can a child either by simply hearing the story or by further parent-child discussion. A friendly introduction to the passage of time, I strongly recommend this book. Ages 2-4. (Four and a half stars)

Lisa Vegan says

This is a lovely book about a young bear concerned about the wellbeing of falling autumn leaves. I liked the beginning more than the middle, the middle more than the end, and (because of the bear's expression) the cover might be my favorite part of the book. There are some humorous touches including showing how the bear manages to put the leaves back on the tree. The ending was a bit weak I thought but I'd recommend it for all young children who don't need rhyme and a lot of action to enjoy a book.

Jayna says

Ages 0 - 4

A little bear grows concerned when the leaves change and fall. Soon his bear instincts take over and he makes a bed of leaves in a hole and hibernates. When he wakes up he is greeted by the leaf buds.

This could be used for a story time about seasons. The little bear doesn't know that the leaves are meant to change colors and fall, but soon realizes that this is how the seasons work.

Jessika says

Although I don't read them very often, I am not ashamed to admit that I enjoy a good picture book now and then. I feel like I am very much a child at heart, and sometimes, I really, truly wish I could return to the days of simple childhood.

Anyway.

This book.

I thought this was a very sweet and simple story, accompanied by vibrant illustrations, that tells of a little bear learning about and coming to terms with the changing of seasons. Admittedly, I don't think this was the most memorable picture book I've ever read, but I still found it enjoyable. With just a touch of silliness, I loved the sense of wonder the little bear had for the world around him. On another note, while the illustrations had to grow on me, I appreciated their simplicity which would naturally appeal to children, and I LOVED the color palette. Each season was perfectly depicted.

Overall, while this may not have been my favorite picture book ever, I still think it was lovely and that it would be a worthy addition to any young child's library.

Jonny Parshall says

When I asked my son (6 years old) what he thought of the book, on a scale of 1-5 stars, he said, "100 stars."

I believe all these nay-sayers who exclaim the book "too cheesy" or "too sappy" are simply "too old." It is a beautiful book, and my son and I know it.

Kathryn says

Oh what a sweet little story. One can't help but love little bear and his concern that the leaves are falling. I loved it where it said "He felt the sun and saw the little buds on the bare arms of the trees...".

Bethe says

Delightful look at a bear and his friends, the leaves.

Robin says

Short text suitable for youngest children -- bear is disturbed when the leaves fall off the trees, even tries to put them back. But sleep overcomes him (so not too worried), and all is well when he wakes in the spring. Used in Rhyme Time, 10/18 & 10/19, 2011.
