

Yellow Time

Written and Illustrated by
Lauren Stringer

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Activity Guide

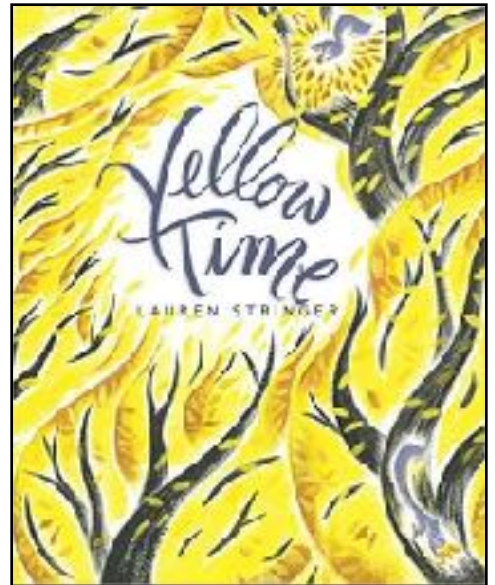
Look outside!

Yellow time is on its way...

About the Author:

Lauren Stringer witnessed her first yellow time when she had moved to Minneapolis, fall of 1988. The view from her window of yellow Ash trees was suddenly transformed by a huge gust of wind into a rain of yellow leaves everywhere, obliterating the world outside and turning everything yellow. Lauren was so moved by this experience that she wrote a poem. Every fall when all the yellow leaves flew and fell at once, she re-wrote the poem. Then one fall, the poem turned into a story called *Yellow Time*.

Lauren Stringer has illustrated many award winning picture books including *Deer Dancer*, written by Mary Lyn Ray, *Tell Me About Your Day Today*, written by Mem Fox, and her own, *Winter is the Warmest Season* and *When Stravinsky Met Nijinsky*. Visit her at: www.laurenstringer.com



Questions You Might Ask

Pre-reading:

- ☀ What do you think the title, *Yellow Time*, refers to? What season is it?
- ☀ Look at the cover - is Yellow Time a quiet time? What sounds might you hear in Yellow Time?
- ☀ List everything you think about when you think about autumn.

Questions continued

Post-reading:

- ☀ Why do you think the author calls autumn “yellow time”? Are there other colors associated with this season?
- ☀ What are the squirrels too busy doing to notice yellow time?
- ☀ Which birds have already gone?
- ☀ Which birds love yellow time? Why do you think so?
- ☀ How do the children know yellow time is coming?
- ☀ What does yellow time smell like? What do other seasons smell like? Does winter have a smell? Does spring? Summer?
- ☀ If yellow time comes before white time, what is white time? What comes before yellow time? What comes after white time?
- ☀ When does yellow time begin? What happens to the trees?
- ☀ The author describes the moment of yellow time as “a symphony of yellow.” What is a symphony? What does she mean?
- ☀ Why is everyone happy when yellow time finally comes? Are you happy when leaves fall in autumn?
- ☀ Describe what the children do in yellow time. What do you like to do when all of the leaves fall?
- ☀ What happens to the trees when yellow time is over? What happens to the ground?
- ☀ What do the squirrels do when yellow time is over? What do the crows? What do the children do?
- ☀ What do the children do to keep their memories of yellow time? How do you keep memories of special times like holidays and birthdays?
- ☀ Which illustration is your favorite? Why? Why do you think Lauren Stringer chose the colors she did?
- ☀ What is your favorite season? What color is it?

Activities

Reading:

Fill out the following chart based on the words found in the story. See if you can figure out what they mean just by reading the sentences surrounding the new words (called *context clues*).

New Word:	What I think it means based on the context:	What the Dictionary says it means:	A picture to help me remember the meaning:
Notice			
Announcing			
Sprinkle			
Billows			
Symphony			
Pool			
Decorate			
Blanket			
Praise			
Bouquets			

Word Magic:

Take these words from the story and make new ones by changing their endings.

Root word:	Add an -s	Add an -ed	Add an -ing
Love			
Announce			
Smell			
Billow			
Jump			
Decorate			
Gather			

Activities

Writing:

Write a story about your favorite season. What do you like to do? What do the trees and plants look like? What are animals doing? Use the chart below to remember details about your favorite season.

Senses:	Details I can include in my description:
SEE	
HEAR	
SMELL	
TASTE	
TOUCH	

Make a Yellow Painting!

When the author/illustrator, Lauren Stringer, painted *Yellow Time*, it was winter where she lives in Minnesota. She used a yellow palette, which brought her great warmth and pleasure during the months when white snow was everywhere. The yellow palette with light yellows and dark ochres felt cheery and soothing. Try making a “yellow” painting, mixing white with yellow to make it lighter and black with yellow to make it darker. How does painting with a yellow palette make you feel? Try painting a picture with a red palette? How does it make you feel? What season does red feel like? Is there a blue season?

Music:

In *Yellow Time*, the author Lauren Stringer compares the falling and swirling of leaves to “A symphony of yellow!” What would a yellow symphony sound like? What instruments would you use? The story of *Yellow Time* can be broken into three parts:

1. Before Yellow Time
2. During Yellow Time
3. After Yellow Time

Symphonies usually have four movements, but a *Yellow Time Symphony* would have three. The movements of a symphony have names like: *allegro* = at a brisk tempo, *adagio* = a slow tempo, or *scherzo* = a vigorous, light, or playful tempo. What tempo would “Before Yellow Time” have? What tempo would “During Yellow Time” have? Which part of the story feels like a “Scherzo?”

Activities Continued

Singing:

In *Yellow Time*, the crows announce it's coming and when it is over they "raise their voices in praise of yellow time." Try singing this song the crows might have sung to the tune of *London Bridge is Falling Down*.

Yellow time is coming soon.

Smell the air, feel the wind.

Yellow time is coming soon.

Everyone get ready.

Yellow time has arrived.

With the wind, and a whoosh.

Yellow leaves are swirling round.

Everyone is happy.

Yellow time is over now.

Leaves are down, trees are bare.

Yellow time will come next year.

Now we welcome white time.

Activities Continued

Make a Leaf Crown!



With a few ingredients you can braid a crown and weave in Fall's yellow leaves to make yourself an Autumn Crown. Visit your local craft store and buy a package of natural raffia. Pull a fist-full of strands from the skein of raffia and smooth them into one long strand of "hair" and tie a knot at one end. Separate the strands into thirds and braid the raffia into one long braid. When the braid reaches around your head, tie it off, with lengths of loose raffia hanging down your back. Now add leaves of any color, (or only yellow, if you prefer) by poking them through the braid. Decorate your crown as thick with leaves as you wish!



Here I am at the Red Wing Children's Literature Festival making Autumn Crowns.

Make Modern Sculpture from Leaves

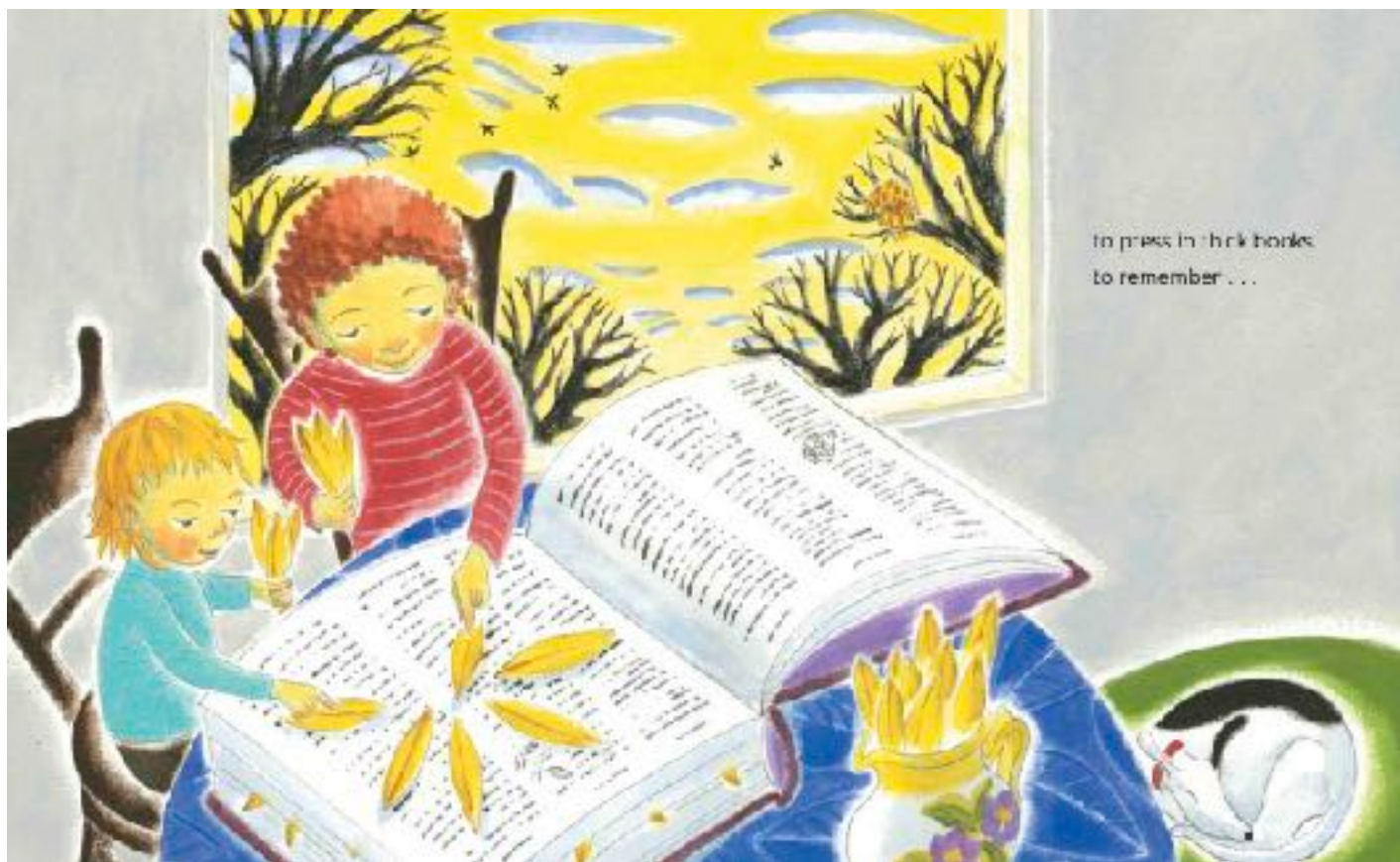
Andy Goldsworthy is a British Sculptor who creates temporary works of art out of what he finds in nature, including sticks, stones, ice, and *leaves!* Take a look at his work here: <http://www.boredpanda.com/land-art-andy-goldsworthy/>. Are you inspired? What kind of art can you make from yellow leaves? Try collecting as many yellow leaves as you can and surround a tree, make a circle, or line them up in a river across your lawn. Try collecting leaves of different colors, but it is best to keep them of the same shape. Don't forget to photograph your work of art before the wind blows it away!



The image to the left is "River Rock Covered in Gold Leaf" by Andy Goldsworthy.

"I enjoy the freedom of just using my hands and "found" tools— a sharp stone, a quill of feather, thorns. I take the opportunities each day offers: if it is snowing, I work with snow, at leaf-fall it will be with leaves; a blown-over tree becomes a source of twigs and branches. I stop at a place or pick up a material because I feel that there is something to be discovered. Here is where I can learn." — Andy Goldsworthy

Activities Continued



At the end of the story, *Yellow Time*, the children gather “bouquets of leaves” to take home and “press in thick books to remember...” If you would like to press some of the leaves you gathered in the fall, I recommend finding a big thick book you do not read often. Before you press your leaves, place a sheet of wax paper on the open pages of your book. Arrange your leaves in a circle or a pattern, or simply place them in a single layer on the wax paper. Then before closing the book, place another sheet of wax paper on top of the leaves. This will protect the pages of your book. Leave about 100 pages between each grouping of leaves. After about two weeks you can remove the pressed leaves and place them carefully into an album covered with a plastic sheet. You might want to write a story or a memory to go with the leaves to add to the pages of your album.