

Little Critter: The Fall Festival

READ ALOUD GUIDE

Themes: Fall, Family, Festival, Seasons

Book Brief: Fall is an exciting season in Critterville! Every year, Little Critter® and his family take a trip to one of the most beloved events in Critterville—the Fall Festival. From picking apples and taking hayrides to choosing the perfect pumpkin, no wonder everyone loves this time of year.

Author:
Mercer Mayer

Illustrator:
Mercer Mayer



BEFORE READING

The Cover: Read the cover. Have you ever been to a fall festival? What do you think they will do there?

The Pictures: Take a brief picture walk and ask students what they see Little Critter and his family doing.

Prior Knowledge: What do you know about festivals? Have you ever been to a festival? What might happen at a fall festival?

Vocabulary: apples, apple cider, festival, field, hayride, leaves, pumpkins, wagon

Purpose for Reading: “As we read, listen to the words and look at the pictures. Notice how the author tells the story through the words and the illustrator tells the story through the pictures.”

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- What happens to Little Sister’s apple cider? How does she feel? What makes you think that?
- What happens to the apples in Little Critter’s wagon? Why do you think mom says, “No more apples”?
- What kind of pumpkin do they pick? What details from the words and pictures make you think that?
- Would you like to go to the fall festival? What would you like to do there?

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: Say, “An author tells a story through words and an illustrator tells a story through pictures. In this story, the illustrator uses details to help us understand how the characters are feeling.” Flip back through the pictures and let the students share how the characters may be feeling at different points in the story. What details make them think that?

Extending Our Thinking: Create your own fall festival in your classroom. Bring in apples or apple cider for students to taste and pumpkins that students can carve. You can make connections to math by counting the number of seeds or sorting by shape, size, and color. Create your own game of horseshoe and make your own prizes.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about fall such as [There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed Some Leaves!](#) and [Let It Fall](#).