

This lesson plan is for KS1 children and it explores the autumn-themed poem *The Leaves* (by an unknown author). The poem describes the sights and sounds on a windy day and night in autumn and the drama lesson encourages children to bring these sights and sounds to life.

Children discuss what animals might be seen and heard during the night, how they might sound, what other sounds could be heard, and what images the metaphors in the poem convey. They perform the poem using mime, dance, expressive movements, and a sound orchestra!

This is a great lesson for linking to a project on the different seasons, or for a PE session. The lesson runs for 20-30 minutes and does not require any equipment but needs a hall or large space for it to work effectively. This lesson plan also includes suggested follow-on tasks and activities for your KS1 class.

## THE LEAVES

The leaves had a wonderful frolic,  
they danced to the wind's loud song,  
they whirled, and they floated and scampered,  
they circled and flew along.

The moon saw the little leaves dancing,  
each looked like a small brown bird.  
The man in the moon smiled and listened,  
and this is the song he heard:

The North Wind is calling, is calling,  
and we must whirl round and round.  
And then when our dancing is ended  
we'll make a warm quilt for the ground.

## **THE LEAVES DRAMA LESSON PLAN**

### **Follow-on activities**

1. Perform the poem again, using simple instruments to create the night-time sounds.
2. Develop the performance further by using appropriate costumes, for example pieces of brown material for the leaves, and present at an assembly with an 'autumn' theme.
3. Find similar themed poems: seasons; night-time; weather; autumn and develop using sound and movement.
4. Find poems with a similar rhythm and compare/contrast.
5. Ask the children to write poems which explore the use of metaphors and similes.
6. Ask the children to write poems on a similar theme.
7. Produce works of art which illustrate or accompany the poem, for example, paintings, sculptures, chalk drawings – and so on.
8. Invite the children to perform their own poems in a similar way, using sound and movement to bring them to life.