

POETRY

Grade 2 Lesson 2: "Gathering Leaves"
by Robert Frost



Introduction



Today we are going to read a poem about gathering autumn leaves.

Listen for how the speaker describes the leaves in this poem.

Read “Gathering Leaves” by Robert Frost aloud.

The poem can be found on the program’s digital components site.

What happens to leaves in autumn?

What does the title of the poem tell us the speaker is doing?

What happens to leaves in autumn?

They fall off of trees.

What does the title of the poem tell us the speaker is doing?

gathering the leaves

What does the speaker do with the leaves?

Are the leaves useful?

What does the speaker do with the leaves?

Possible answers include gathers them, loads and unloads them in the shed, embraces them, etc.

Are the leaves useful?

No, they have “next to nothing for use,” meaning they are useless.

Turn and talk to a partner about the following question.

Based on this poem, how is gathering leaves like tending a crop?

Based on this poem, how is gathering leaves like tending a crop?

The speaker is picking up and collecting the leaves like a farmer might pick and collect their crops. They are both a lot of work, involve plants, have to happen at a certain time based on nature, etc.

Reading



The poem, “Gathering Leaves” has examples of similes.

What is a simile?

A simile is a comparison of two unlike things, often introduced by *like* or *as*.

As I read “Gathering Leaves” aloud again, listen for a simile in the poem.

Read “Gathering Leaves” by Robert Frost aloud.

The poem can be found on the program’s digital components site.

What simile did you hear?

How do you know it is a simile?

What simile did you hear?

*“And bags full of leaves
Are light as balloons.”*

How do you know it is a simile?

The lines create a comparison between two things using the word as.

What does the simile “as light as balloons” mean?

Why does the speaker compare leaves to balloons?

What does the simile “as light as balloons” mean?

The bags full of leaves are not heavy. They are light like balloons.

Why does the speaker compare leaves to balloons?

Many people know how light balloons are, so they can easily understand how light the leaves are when the speaker compares them.

As I read the poem again, listen for rhyming words.

Read “Gathering Leaves” by Robert Frost aloud.

The poem can be found on the program’s digital components site.

What rhyming words did you hear?

What rhyming words did you hear?

Possible answers include spoons/balloons, day/away, embrace/face, etc.

Poems with a **rhyme scheme**, or pattern of rhyming words, usually put those words at the ends of lines.

We can figure out the rhyme scheme by putting a letter at the end of every line. When a line rhymes with a previous line, they get the same letter.

In these two stanzas, you can see that we put a letter after each line.

The second and fourth lines in each stanza rhyme, so they get the same letter. So do lines that end with the same word, like *leaves* in the first stanza.

Spades take up leaves **A**

No better than spoons, **B**

And bags full of leaves **A**

Are light as balloons. **B**

I make a great noise **C**

Of rustling all day **D**

Like rabbit and deer **E**

Running away. **D**

Let’s try an example
together.

Which letters should we
put after each line?

Remember, our last stanza
had CDED, so the first
letter we will use is F.

But the mountains I raise
Elude my embrace,
Flowing over my arms
And into my face.

I may load and unload
Again and again
Till I fill the whole shed,
And what have I then?

Our last stanza had CDED, so the next letter we use in the rhyme scheme would be F.

The second and fourth lines rhyme, so they get the same letter, G.

Then we keep going with the next letters of the alphabet.

But the mountains I raise	F
Elude my embrace,	G
Flowing over my arms	H
And into my face.	G
I may load and unload	I
Again and again	J
Till I fill the whole shed,	K
And what have I then?	J

Wrap-Up



Now it's your turn! Find the rhyme scheme of the poem's last stanza.

Remember, the last stanza used IJKJ.

Next to nothing for weight,
And since they grew duller
From contact with earth,
Next to nothing for color.

Next to nothing for use,
But a crop is a crop,
And who's to say where
The harvest shall stop?

The last stanza used IJKJ,
so the next stanza will be
LMNM.

Then we keep going with
the next letters of the
alphabet, OPQP.

Next to nothing for weight, L
And since they grew duller M
From contact with earth, N
Next to nothing for color. M

Next to nothing for use, O
But a crop is a crop, P
And who’s to say where Q
The harvest shall stop? P