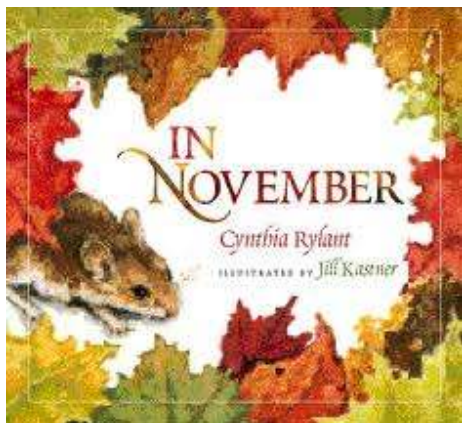


Writing Trait: Ideas

Learning Intention: collect writing samples for each month of the school year to use in portfolios, individual student books or classroom books.

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By Cynthia Rylant

Before Reading

Learning Outcomes: A2, A8, B4

Talk about the new month on the calendar and how it relates to the season. Are there changes we have noticed in the weather and/or the natural environment? Are there special days coming up in this month (birthdays, holidays?) Refer to the class calendar if possible.

During Reading

Learning Outcomes: A2, A8, B5

Read the story to the class, drawing attention to the illustrations, and periodically checking in for connections.

After Reading (over a couple of days)

Learning Outcomes: A2, A6, A8, B2 B6, C1, C2, C4, C6

1. Take the class for a walk outdoors through a forested area. Stop periodically and do a "senses check"; "What do we hear? See? Feel?" Back in the class, make a class chart with ideas brainstormed of observations.
2. Reread the book together. Refer to the brainstorm from the walk the previous day. Write a sentence frame at the top of a new brainstorm: "In November _____". Make sure to include sensory ideas from the walk as well as special days upcoming in the month—birthdays and holidays, and try to gather descriptive language about the foods we eat or the celebrations we have that month.
3. On large paper have the children illustrate an idea from the brainstorm and use the sentence starter, "In November _____". (BLM on next page) Review strategies for writing their message and encourage them to add as many letters as they can to describe their picture.
4. Have children who are comfortable doing so share their picture and writing with the class. Collect the drawings and compile into a class book, display in class, save for monthly writing samples, or place in portfolios.

In November _____
