

Seasonal Verses and Movement Games

— Betty Jones

Five Little Apple Leaves

Five little leaves on an apple tree
Danced and pranced so merrily,
One leaf floated away from the rest
Making its home in a wee bird's nest.
Four little leaves in the apple tree,
Thought, "Oh where could one leaf be?"
Light Brother Breeze blew a kiss.
Two little leaves flew off in bliss.
Two little leaves danced together
On the apple tree in stormy weather
Big Brother Wind, he blew so hard
Two little leaves flew down in my yard!

*Hold one hand, five fingers spread
Wiggle five fingers while swaying
Thumb floats downward
Cup other hand as nest for leaf
Hold up hand, four fingers up
Tap forehead with four fingers
Other hand to lips, blow a kiss
Two fingers leave forehead, float away
Hold up hand, two fingers wiggle
Two fingers wiggle and sway
Other hand surround lips and blow
Last two fingers fall into lap*

Autumn Leaves

The trees are saying "Goodbye" to their leaves
As they flutter and fly and float in the breeze,
All golden, orange, and red, they sink softly off to bed,
On Mother Earth's breast rests each leafy head.

*Stretch out arms and wave goodbye
Flutter fingers
Slowly bring fluttering fingers down to floor
Make sleeping gesture with palms together; give a big,
restful sigh*

The Living Garden

Little ants run to and fro, in and out the earth they go,
Busy, busy, never still, are the ants in their anthill.
Overhead the spider weaves its shining web among the
trees,
And makes its thread so fine to snare unwary creatures, so
beware!
Slowly, silently goes the snail, and leaves behind its gooey
trail,
As it makes its slimy way whether it be night or day.
The buzzing bees sip here and there as fine flowers their
nectar share,
Making honey, oh so sweet, those busy bees a working
fleet.
Fuzzy caterpillar on this track, up and down goes his back
As he curls into a cocoon, who would guess that he'd be
soon
The beautiful, winging butterfly, fluttering joyfully in the
sky
And like a flower, her colors bright, fade into the darkest
night.

*In a circle, children act out the garden creatures as de-
scribed. Ants scuttle around; spiders climb by inching
hands upward with fingertips touching; snails slide
slowly around the circle, bent over with their fists on
their backs; bees quickly flutter their hands; caterpil-
lars put their hands and feet on the floor, stretch out
their bodies, and slowly inch their feet towards their
hands; butterflies dance lightly in the circle.*

Excerpted by permission of the author from A Child's Seasonal Treasury by Betty Jones (2014): from p. 48, "Five Little Apple Leaves" and "Autumn Leaves"; from p. 90, "The Living Garden". Opposite page: detail from "Stepping Stones," p. 44, reproduced in color on the cover of this issue. For more information about Betty Jones, see the Table of Contents.