



Winter Trees

READ ALOUD GUIDE

Themes: Nature, Observation, Seasons

Book Brief: A beautiful informational text about identifying different types of trees in winter by observing their unique features, even when their leaves are gone!

Author:
Carole Gerber

Illustrator:
Leslie Evans

BEFORE READING

The Cover: Ask students to make a prediction about the story based on the cover and title.

The Pictures: Take a quick picture walk and ask students what they notice about the illustrations.

Prior Knowledge: Ask, “What happens to trees in winter? How do they look different from other seasons?” (Optional: Think-Pair-Share)

Vocabulary: Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [Vocabulary Guide](#).

Purpose for Reading: “As we read, think about what this book is mostly about. What is the main topic and what are we learning about winter trees?”



DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- What do trees look like in winter?
- How can we tell different trees apart when they don't have leaves?
- What are some of the different trees the boy and his dog find?
- What details help us identify each tree (bark, branches, shape)?

Think Aloud: “I’m thinking about what this book is teaching us. The main topic is how to identify different types of trees in winter. We’re learning that even without leaves, each tree has special features like different bark patterns and branch shapes that help us tell them apart.”

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: “What is this book mainly about? What did we learn about identifying trees in winter?”

Extending Our Thinking: Ask students, “What trees have you noticed around your school or home? What do they look like?” Encourage students to go on a tree observation walk (outside if possible, or look out classroom windows) and choose one tree to observe closely. Students can draw their tree and label special features they notice (bark texture, branch pattern, overall shape, size). If doing this in winter, they can compare how the tree looks now versus other seasons, or predict what it might look like in different weather.

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 the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.