Color Me
Autumn Sketchbook

Inspire your child to enjoy the colorful fall foliage by creating a seasonal sketchbook! Watch as they fill the pages with the warm reds, bright yellows and brilliant browns found in the fall scenery. See trees and plants emerge as your child creates imaginative sketches to celebrate the fall season.

This activity will encourage your child to utilize their observation skills, develop aesthetic awareness, build artistic drawing abilities, and learn about the seasonal environment. Additionally, a cover created by collaging natural fall materials will help your child become a budding naturalist—collecting their own scientific specimens. Choose recycled materials for the book-making portion to add in a fantastic environmental awareness lesson.

What You Need:

- Cardboard (this can be a reused box such as a cereal box or packing box)
- Paper (try a white drawing paper, or reuse backs of light-colored flyers)
- Pencil (regular and colored)
- Stapler
- Glue
- Fall nature specimens

What You Do:

1. Find a suitable piece of cardboard that is large enough to fold into a book shape with a front and back cover. If one piece is too short, you may use two pieces together as the front and back. Your child can help you find the cardboard and fold the cover.
2. Have your child place several sheets of drawing paper inside the cardboard cover. Align the paper with the left side.
3. Staple the book together on the left side. This step should be done by an adult.
4. Take your child outside and go on a nature specimen field trip. Encourage them to choose fall themed items such as fallen leaves, twigs or acorns. Try to steer clear of picking live plants or leaves that are still attached to a tree.
5. Once you and your child have collected your fall specimens, ask your child to glue the items onto the cover of the sketchbook. This is their chance to make a beautiful collage of all of the natural materials they have collected and design the cover to the sketchbook however they like.
6. Set aside to dry.
7. Once dry, give your child their sketchbook and some colored pencils and let them go to town! Encourage your child to go outdoors and observe what they see and watch as they sketch the colorful fall scenery!

Extend sketching activities throughout the entire year. Make a book for each season that can be filled with fantastic imagery as the weather changes. Once all four have been created, ask your child to compare and contrast what they have drawn.

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Spot 10 differences
Make an Exploding Pumpkin

Learn all about cause and effect as your child experiments with an exploding pumpkin in this engaging fall activity! Get the whole family involved with this simple science experiment that is a fun and exciting way to combine Halloween and science. In this activity, kids will take pumpkin carving one step further by adding a couple household products to make an exploding pumpkin. Though designed with kindergarteners through third graders in mind, children of all ages—and even adults!—will have fun carving their own pumpkin designs and then experimenting with adding different colors, glitter, or amounts of baking soda and vinegar and watching the results.

What You Need:
- One small pumpkin
- Pumpkin carving equipment (e.g., knife, spoon, etc.)
- Black permanent marker
- Baking soda
- Vinegar
- Food coloring

What You Do:
1. Design a basic pumpkin face for your pumpkin (for younger kids you can provide them with an outline or some basic shapes to trace with support).
2. Carve your face onto the pumpkin (older kids can carve with support, and younger kids can help scoop out the pumpkin guts).
3. Help your child measure five tablespoons of baking powder and add it to the bottom of their pumpkin.
4. Choose a color and place 2–4 drops of food coloring on top of the baking powder.
5. Fill a small measuring cup (½ cup works well) with vinegar and instruct your child to pour it on top of the baking powder.
6. Watch as your pumpkin explodes!

Extensions: Use the same directions above and have your child experiment with different colors, adding glitter, more or less vinegar and baking soda, or by using a hollowed out pumpkin to see how their explosion changes. Encourage your child to record their findings by drawing pictures or writing a sentence. Your scientist will love this fun Halloween science activity!

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WordSearch

Hello Autumn

YELLOW  CIDER  PUMPKIN  RED
FALL    TREES    AUTUMN   PLaid
HALLOWEEN  BONFIRE  LEAVES   SCARECROW
HARVEST  MUSHROOMS  RAKING  FOOTBALL

QPUIAHTCIDERTNT
TIFCPUMPKINSX
LEAVESDLARBEHB
TREESGZWZFFVKAG
JFOOTBALLRDPLK
YJLLUZSBABALLC
EEOBRIQHTD AOJ
LGSCARECROWIWF
LWOAUTUMNJKDEO
OTSZLDXEBIEV
WLIREJBOJUUENY
CQKEMBONFIREZJ
BDQEDCMUSHROOMS
JPDDFFALLRAKING
Visit HCPLC.org/FamilyHeritage to celebrate the 7th Annual Family Heritage Festival.
Read Together
Reading aloud with your child builds key language and literacy skills while you connect together with a book. This shared experience ignites children’s imaginations, helps them build a greater understanding of the world, and cultivates a lifelong love of reading. Here are some tips for making the most of story time:

- Hold the book so that your child can easily see the cover and the illustrations.
- Make a few comments about the illustration on the cover and note the author and illustrator.
- Show excitement and read the story expressively.
- Listen for your child’s comments or questions and respond briefly to confirm or clarify.
- Provide information to extend your child’s understanding of the story.
- Have fun!

Build Vocabulary
Providing a simple explanation for words that children may not be familiar with can help build their language skills. You can describe the meaning of a word, point to an illustration, or use your tone of voice to convey the word’s meaning. Here are some words to talk about while you read *Amy Wu and the Patchwork Dragon*:

- **Patchwork**: something that is made up of different things
- **Enormous**: very, very big
- **Emerge**: to come out where you can see
- **Snout**: an animal’s long nose
- **Gleaming**: bright and shiny
- **Sketches**: quick drawings
- **Invite**: ask someone to do something
- **Exactly**: right in every way
Tell Stories

In Amy Wu and the Patchwork Dragon, Amy has difficulty creating her own dragon until she is inspired by a treasure—a dragon costume—in her attic. With your child, help pick out something that is special to them. This can be a small toy, a favorite food, a photograph, or an article of clothing. Talk to your child about why they chose the item and how it makes them feel. Share your own treasure with your child and invite other family members to tell stories about something special to them. Then, let your child draw the item and help them label their picture.

Create a Patchwork Dragon

Amy and her classmates create their own dragons, and they all look a little different: some big and some small, some with claws and others with scales, and all in various colors. Help your child create their own dragon! Find any art materials they would like to use for their dragon—such as paint, crayons, paper (for example, gift wrap, newspapers, or construction paper), empty containers (paper towel rolls, boxes), and glue. Your child can sketch, draw, and patchwork—or use many different things—to make the dragon their own. When they are done, ask them what details they have included on their dragons. What’s similar and different compared to the dragons Amy or her friends created? Extend the conversation by talking with your child about the features of dragons and other animals. For example, “I see you drew a snout on your dragon. What other animal do you know that also has a snout?”

Move Like a Dragon

We see Amy, her grandmother, and her friends put on the dragon costume and dance all around the house and classroom. Collect some ribbons, scarves, or colorful fabric. You could also use tissue paper or tissues, and help your child decorate them with markers. When they are ready, put on some music! Invite your child to move like a dragon. They could pretend to blow fire, bring down the rain, and fly without wings. Then, ask your child for other ideas of how a dragon might move.

Visit HCPLC.org/Events to register for the public library’s Evening Story Time on October 28!
Make Emotion Masks
Throughout the story, Amy’s feelings change as she thinks about making a dragon that feels “just right.” She’s sad when she doesn’t finish her dragon, excited when she has an idea, and happy when she finally gets to show her dragon to her classmates. With your child, create emotion masks to talk about the feelings Amy shows in the book. Ask your child to make a face and help them identify the emotion it represents—for example, your child can show you a look of surprise and you can ask them what would cause them to make that face.

Using paper plates, sticks (for example: craft sticks, pens, or pencils), tape, and markers, help your child draw a face on the plate to match an emotion. Tape the stick to the back of the mask so they can hold it in front of their face and then repeat with additional emotions.

Once the faces have been drawn, ask your child how they are feeling. Have your child select the mask that represents their mood. These masks can be used over and over to help your child share their feelings and emotions, or to identify with characters’ emotions in books you read together.

Keep Reading
Love reading together? Visit your local library with your child to find more books to read together:

- Deepen conversations on family relationships by trying:
  o Eyes that Kiss in the Corners by Joanna Ho, illustrated by Dung Ho
  o Where Are You From? by Yamile Saied Mendoza, illustrated by Jaime Kim
  o Grandpa Grumps by Katrina Moore, illustrated by Xindi Yan

- Dig into themes of creativity and self-expression by reading:
  o Julián is a Mermaid by Jessica Love
  o Maybe Something Beautiful by F. Isabel Campoy and Theresa Howell, illustrated by Rafael López
  o Lola’s Fandango by Anna Witte, illustrated by Micha Archer

- Dive into more books about dragons and cultural symbols by reading:
  o Dragons Love Tacos by Adam Rubin, illustrated by Daniel Salmieri
  o Raising Dragons by Jerdine Nolen, illustrated by Elise Primavera

- Explore more great books by author Kat Zhang. Try:
  o Amy Wu and the Perfect Bao.