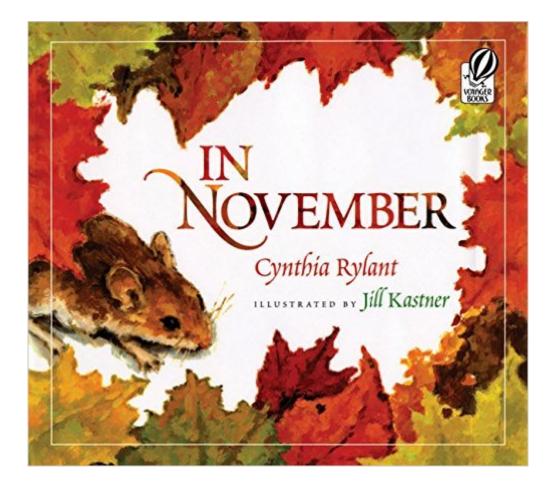
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# **In November**





# Synopsis

In November, the air grows cold and the earth and all of its creatures prepare for winter. Animals seek food and shelter. And people gather together to celebrate their blessings with family and friends. Cynthia Rylant's lyrical language and Jill Kastner's rich, cozy paintings capture the cherished moments of this autumn month--the moments we spend together and the ones we witness in the world around us.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 440 (What's this?) Paperback: 32 pages Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; 1 edition (September 1, 2008) Language: English ISBN-10: 0152063420 ISBN-13: 978-0152063429 Product Dimensions: 10 x 0.1 x 9 inches Shipping Weight: 1.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies) Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews (40 customer reviews) Best Sellers Rank: #30,514 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #26 in Books > Children's Books > Early Learning > Basic Concepts > Seasons #298 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature #579 in Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works Age Range: 4 - 7 years Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## **Customer Reviews**

What happens in November? This story is beautifully illustrated to depict different activities that occur in late fall as the earth and its' creatures prepare for winter. Cynthia Rylant uses a combination of similies and metaphors to capture the reader/listner and draw them into the book. Jill Kastner's paintings blend colors to give a striking contrast on each page that grabs the eyes of the audience to pull them into the text. The realistic activities and traditions depicted in the story are brought to life by the rhthym of the text. The children nod and join in when they hear "In November, the animals sleep more. The air is chilly and they ...shiver!" As the children explore the page with their eyes, there is no doubt that they can relate to feeling chilly and shivering themselves at one time. There is no specific reference made to Thanksgiving in the text, but listners quickly pick up on

the special day in November, where friends or families travel to see each other, share a special meal together, and give thanks for their many blessings. As the listners see the final page of the boook, many will oohh and aaahhh, and volunteer, they too, have traveled home after a special dinner at night. The audience of this book gains a sense of peace and belonging to our earth, as they relate to some or many of the illustrations and text in some way. CMH

We just finished reading this in my Children's Literacy class. It was an apt example of "Voice" in writing. Cynthia Rylant, whom I adore as an author, once again writes a beautifully descriptive book about the month of November. This book is a must for any children's library.

Cynthia Ryland does it again! A wonderful book for use with teaching metaphors. Her descriptive words gives visual meaning to each sentence. A wonderful book to use with six traits writing "Voice" and teaching inference to young children. Each page is filled with words to ponder, reflect, relate and to write about. Although there is no reference to Thanksgiving, many children relate to the special day and time with relatives. A perfect book for November and a perfect title. The illustrations are beautiful; giving a feeling of warmth to the words. Every teacher should own a copy.

A wonderful, warm and simple book about the month of November. Cynthia Rylant always gets feeling and memory (nostalgia) right. This book describes what happens in November in a colder climate but also what we feel like in November. It includes a reference to Thanksgiving at the end. I thoroughly enjoyed this book as an adult and will pull it out to read to my kids every fall/winter. It doesn't offer any action or story line but evokes perfectly the atmosphere and light of the season. "In November" takes you for a walk through your own feelings.

I normally love children's books with poetic text but this was a bit of a stretch and felt too contrived for a preschool audience. Food having an "orange smell", shivering livestock, and "serious" birds were all images that I can appreciate as an adult but are a bit hard for the very literal minds of preschoolers. The illustrations are lovely and peaceful, I just wish I liked the text better.

I love reading seasonal books with my children  $\tilde{A}c\hat{A}$   $\hat{A}$  there are rich histories and interesting cultural traditions associated with so many holidays and seasons, and yet I struggle with the almost light-switch-like transition from Halloween to Christmas that you tend to see. I want to enjoy and celebrate fall not in just the scary, dress-up, collecting candy ways. Meanwhile, as much as I love

Thanksgiving and the sentiments of being thankful, giving to others, and enjoying time with family, I am cautious about childrenâ Â<sup>™</sup>s literature that paints a rose-tinged view of the history of the holiday. That is why I am so fond of the book â ÂœIn Novemberâ Â•. It touches on Thanksgiving celebrations but depicts the month of November as a time when the world battens down for winter, when your world outside your home and inside feels, looks, and smells different than at other times of year. It uses poetic language that I appreciate stretches my preschoolerâ Â<sup>™</sup>s and 2nd graderâ Â<sup>™</sup>s comprehension, and while it didnâ Â<sup>™</sup>t tell a story with a beginning and an end, it kept their attention. They also loved the pictures, which are beautiful on their own, independent of the words, and not at all cartoon-like.

The book is a somewhat poetic description of November as season; but for my children and for me it is boring. The text has no special ideas or story, and the pictures are ok, but also without anything to make them special. A read-once book.

My children and I love anything written by Cynthia Rylant, but this book has the added benefit of the most beautiful illustrations. I cannot say enough about how much I love this book. It is something we will pull out every November - probably even after the children are grown! If your children love your family traditions and are comforted by knowing what to expect with each season or holiday, this book is a must for them. You could probably get it from the library every fall, but the illustrations make it worth putting on your shelf with your favorites and keeping for your grandkids.

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