



**Teacher Edition**

**AlphaWorld**

# Leaves

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# How to use this book

## Before reading: Talkthrough

Talk through the book with the children. Encourage them to predict the text from the pictures and to think about the information they provide. Direct the children's attention to aspects of the text that may challenge them. Support the children to deal with these challenges by asking the *Talkthrough* questions on each page.



## During reading: Observe and support

Observe the children as they read. As needed, support children by assisting them to discover and use reading strategies and cues to solve problems and respond to reading challenges that arise in the text. Encourage them to monitor their own reading. Interruptions to the child's reading should be minimal and focused on a specified learning need.



## After reading: Checking comprehension, responding to text

To further develop children's understanding of the text, select activities found on the inside back cover. These whole text, sentence and word level activities reinforce the teaching focus of this book. Assessment ideas are provided to assist with planning for further teaching.



## Setting the context

Bring some different shaped leaves into class. Ask: *What shapes are these leaves? Can you find any that are shaped like fans? What other shapes can leaves be?*

## Introducing the book

*This book is called 'Leaves'. It shows us a range of different leaves and compares these leaves to shapes like circles, stars, hearts and fans. Have you ever seen any*



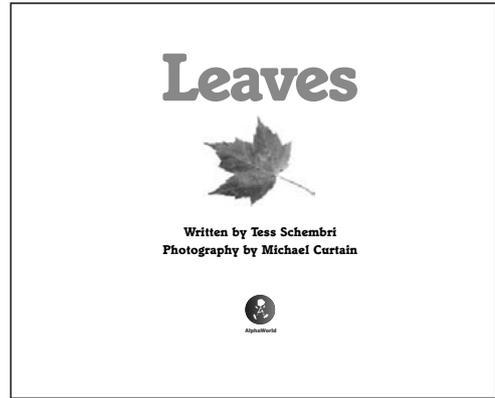
## Front cover

Read the title to the children and then read it together. Talk about the shape of the leaves on the cover.  
*What do these leaves look like? Have you seen leaves like these before?*

## Background information

Plants grow different shaped leaves for different climatic and growing conditions. For example, large round leaves catch water and funnel it onto the plant. Long, thin leaves make it difficult for snow to stay on the plant.

*plants with leaves that look like circles? What about leaves that look like stars or hearts or fans?*



## Title page

Read the title.  
Point out the names of the author and photographer.  
Talk about the logo.

## Leaves

Leaves are many  
different shapes.



### **Talkthrough**

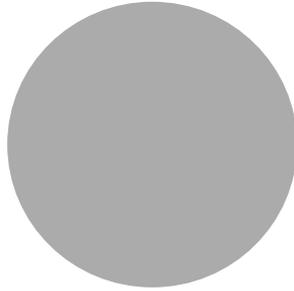
*Look at these leaves. What do you notice?  
How are they the same? How are they different?  
What shapes are they?*



## **Observe and support**

Does the child look for information in the pictures?  
*What do you notice about all of these leaves? What did you learn about leaves by looking at these pictures?*

This leaf  
looks like a circle.



### Talkthrough

*What shape is this leaf? Look at the circle under the text? Why is it there? How can you use it to help you to read the words?*

*Point out that the shape is a cue to the word 'circle'. What would you expect to see at the start of 'circle'? What other letter could it be? Can you see 'circle' in the sentence?*



## Observe and support

Does the child recognise the sight words: this, looks, like, a?

Point to a sight word.

*Can you tell me what this word is? Would reading the sentence help you to work it out? What is the word?*

*How will you remember it?*

For example, the double 'o' in 'look' could be eyes looking.

This leaf  
looks like a star.



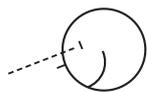
6



### **Talkthrough**

*What shape is this leaf? Why is the star on the page?  
Is the leaf really a star? What will the book say?*

Point out that the book says it looks like a star, not that it is a star.

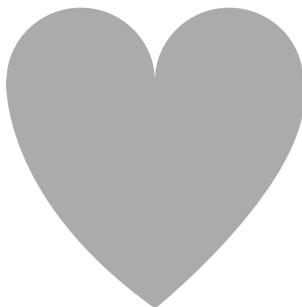


## **Observe and support**

Does the child check the shape under the writing and the start of the word when reading 'star'?

*You said, "This leaf looks like a star." How did you know you were right? What did you check?*

This leaf  
looks like a heart.



8



### **Talkthrough**

*What will this page say? What did you look at to work that out? How did the picture help? How did the shape help? What else could you check to be sure?*



## **Observe and support**

Does the child read the text fluently?

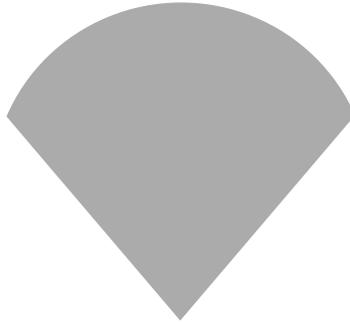
*You read it so it sounded like this: "This... leaf ... looks... like... a... heart."*

Read the text fluently to the child several times.

*Can you make it sound like that?*

Have them read it with you and then by themselves.

This leaf  
looks like a fan.



10



### **Talkthrough**

*What does this leaf look like?  
Could you really use it for a fan?*



## **Observe and support**

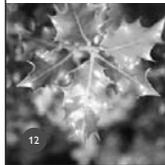
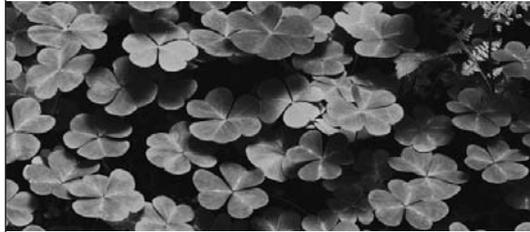
Does the child understand the language of comparison used in the book? Can they use it to infer meaning?  
*Is this leaf really a fan? Why does the book say that it looks like a fan?*



## Talkthrough

*This page sums up what the book has been telling us. It says that leaves are many different shapes. What shapes are these leaves? Have you ever seen any leaves like these?*

Leaves are many  
different shapes.



## Comprehension check

*What shapes does the book say leaves can be?  
What other shapes can leaves be?  
What is the same about all of the leaves in the book?*

## Responding to text

 Have the children find pictures of other things that are the shapes mentioned in the book. These could be labelled accordingly, e.g. “This bird’s tail looks like a circle.”

 Provide a range of different shaped leaves. Ask the children to display them by sticking them onto a large sheet of paper to create a mural. The children can then write captions to stick on the mural, e.g. “This leaf looks like a circle.”

 Have children collect leaves in the playground and then group them according to shape. Shape words could be written alongside each group.

**For further literacy activities** see the accompanying book, *AlphaWorld Literacy Learning Activities: Emergent Reading Levels 1–5*. It contains two reproducible blackline masters specifically related to this book.

## Assessment

Can the child:

- use pictures of shapes to check meaning?
- understand the language of comparison? (‘looks like...’)

➤ check other information on the page as they read?

# Leaves

**Topic:** Plants and environment

**Curriculum link:** Living Things;

Environment

**Text type:** Caption

**Reading level:** 3

**Word count:** 34

**High-frequency words:** this, looks, like, a, many

**Vocabulary:** leaf, circle, star, heart, fan, leaves, different, shapes

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## Possible literacy focus

Understanding predictable language structures and anticipating a different key word.

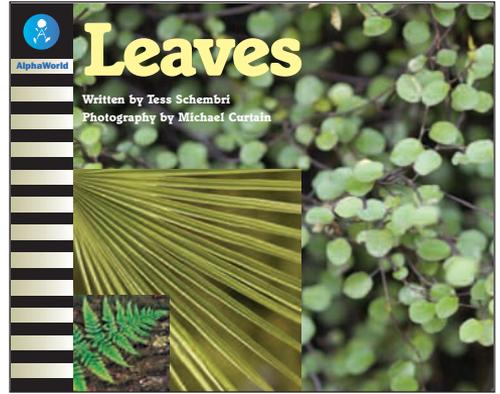
Using pictures of shapes to cue meaning.

Using language for comparison.

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## Summary

This book asks the reader to look carefully at some different leaves and see how they form shapes that are like the shapes of familiar objects. Pictures of the leaves and shapes are provided to assist the process.



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