

Preparatory

Science and Nature Study

Young students will gently discover the natural world through listening to an array of seasonal picture books, keeping a calendar and exploring nature. Choose books from the *Read Around the Seasons* book list as they fit your family's needs and interests and relate them back to your daily calendar work. Read a few suggestions for each season over the course of a full calendar year. Feel free to read favorites more than once.

Some books include: *Good-Night, Owl!* by Pat Hutchins, *Snow* by Cynthia Rylant, *Winter Dance* by Marion Dane Bauer, *Spring Walk* by Virginia Brimhall Snow, *And Then It's Spring* by Julie Fogliano and *Summer Days and Nights* by Wong Herbert Yee.

Natural History for the Early Years: A Teaching Guide is coming soon! This science and natural history guide will be an alternative for Preparatory and Year One students, offering Preparatory students more challenge, but Year One students less challenge. This guide would be great for combining both levels. The year will focus on farm life, plants and seed dispersion.

History

Preparatory students will already be learning about the passage of time through calendar work and a focus on seasons in Natural History. To coordinate with this, children will be learning about US holidays as well as some important names in history. Choose several picture books from the *First US Holidays and History* book list, which are loosely arranged to follow a traditional school calendar year. Some books include: *Thanksgiving Is* by Gail Gibbons, *My Little Golden Book About Martin Luther King, Jr.* by Bonnie Bader, *President's Day* by Anne Rockwell and *The 4th of July Story* by Alice Dalgliesh.

Geography

Preparatory students will first learn about the people within their own neighborhoods and cities by listening to picture books such as *The Post Office Book* by Gail Gibbon and *Spark the Firefighter* by Stephen Krensky from the *Communities* book list in Term One. In Terms Two and Three, students will expand their introduction of people to the variety found around the world. The stories will be selected from the *Read Around the World* book list. Some books include: *Adelita: A Mexican Cinderella Story* by Tomie

dePaola, *Waiting for the Biblioburro* by Monica Brown, *Galimoto* by Karen Lynn Williams, *The Story about Ping* by Marjorie Flack, *The Story of Ferdinand* by Munro Leaf and *Koala Lou* by Mem Fox.

Literature & Poetry

Students will listen to poetry as it is read aloud from a lovely selection of seasonal focused books: *A Child's Calendar: Poems by John Updike* (illust. by Hyman), *Long Night Moon* by Cynthia Rylant, *The Year Comes Round: Haiku Through the Seasons* by Sid Farrar and *Red Sings from Treetops: A Year in Colors* by Joyce Sidman. Literature will focus on fables, selected classic children's stories, *Tales of Peter Rabbit and Friends* and others.

The Arts

Choose artists, composers and music for the family and allow your preparatory students to join in with this study as interested.