



How the Leaves Came Down

I'll tell you how the leaves came down.
The great Tree to his children said,
"You're getting sleepy, Yellow and Brown,
Yes, very sleepy, little Red;
It is quite time you went to bed."

"Ah!" begged each silly, pouting leaf,
"Let us a little longer May;
Dear Father Tree, behold our grief,
'Tis such a very pleasant day
We do not want to go away."

So, just for one more merry day
To the great Tree the leaflets clung,
Frolicked and danced and had their way,
Upon the autumn breezes swung,
Whispering all their sports among,

"Perhaps the great Tree will forget
And let us stay until the spring
If we all beg and coax and fret."
But the great Tree did no such thing;
He smiled to hear their whispering.

"Come, children all, to bed," he cried;
And ere the leaves could urge their prayer
He shook his head, and far and wide,
Fluttering and rustling everywhere,
Down sped the leaflets through the air.

I saw them; on the ground they lay,
Golden and red, a huddled swarm,
Waiting till one from far away,
White bed-clothes heaped upon her arm,
Should come to wrap them safe and warm.
The great bare Tree looked down and smiled.
"Good-night, dear little leaves" he said;
And from below each sleepy child
Replied "Good-night," and murmured,
"It is so nice to go to bed."

By Susan Coolidge

Questions 27 to 32 are about 'How the Leaves Came Down'

27. What season is the poem about? Tick **one** box.

spring	<input type="checkbox"/>	autumn	<input type="checkbox"/>
summer	<input type="checkbox"/>	winter	<input type="checkbox"/>

1 mark

28. In line 29 the author uses 'white bedclothes' to refer to what? Tick **one** box.

HINT! Bedclothes means sheets or blankets, but 'white bedclothes' in the poem is a metaphor. Think about the time of year and what might happen that will cover the leaves.

sheets	<input type="checkbox"/>	leaves	<input type="checkbox"/>
snow	<input type="checkbox"/>	hail	<input type="checkbox"/>

1 mark

Frolicked: to move in a in a lively and cheerful way.

29. The poet uses the words 'frolicked' and 'danced' to describe the leaves. What do these words tell you about the way the leaves moved?

HINT! Think about emotions as well as movement. How do people generally feel when dancing and frolicking?

2 marks

30. Find and copy **two** sentences from the poem that show the relationship of the tree to the leaves to be similar to a parent and child relationship.

1. _____
2. _____

2 marks

Personification: giving an object qualities of a human

31. The poet uses personification to make the leaves seem alive. Find and copy **two** sentences from the poem that show this.

2 marks

- 1. _____
- 2. _____

32. *'It is so nice to go to bed.'*

How does this compare to the way the leaves felt at the beginning of the poem? Explain your answer in full using **evidence** from the poem.

2 marks
