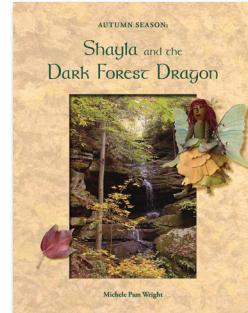


**AUTUMN SEASON:**  
**Shayla and the Dark Forest Dragon**

***The Story:***

Sometimes change is difficult. Shayla the forest fairy is enjoying the long summer days with her friends and is sad to see the season changing. With help from Ogilvie the owl and an adventure with her new friend, Kegan the dragon, Shayla realizes autumn has a unique beauty all its own. As she opens her heart to change, discover the magic of autumn with Shayla and her friends.



***Discussion Before Story: Autumn season and dealing with change***

- 1) **What is your favorite thing about autumn?**
- 2) **Why is change difficult?**
- 3) **Why is it important to learn how to deal with change?**

***Discussion After Story:* (Page references next to each question)**

- 1) **Why do leaves change color?** (Less light from the sun and lower temperatures) **Page 2**
- 2) **Name some seeds and nuts that you see in autumn?** (acorns, buckeyes, beech nuts, hickory nuts, maple seeds or “helicopters,” elderberries, pine cones, holly berries) **Page 4**
- 3) **Why do you hear less frog and insect noises in the autumn?**  
(The cold nights are killing some of the insects, the cold makes them less active, and mating season is over.) **Page 10**
- 4) **Why does the moon look like it’s moving slowly across the night sky?**  
(The rotation of the earth.) **Page 12**
- 5) **Why would Shayla see opossums, skunks, porcupines, and a fox at night?**  
(They are nocturnal so they sleep during the day and are awake at night.) **Page 13**
- 6) **What were the bats doing that make them valuable to people?** (Bat colonies eat thousands of insects every night, including mosquitoes.) **Page 13**
- 7) **What happens to Shayla at the end of the book?**  
(She decides to appreciate the positive changes that autumn brings, like the leaves changing.) **Page 15**

***Activities at:***

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