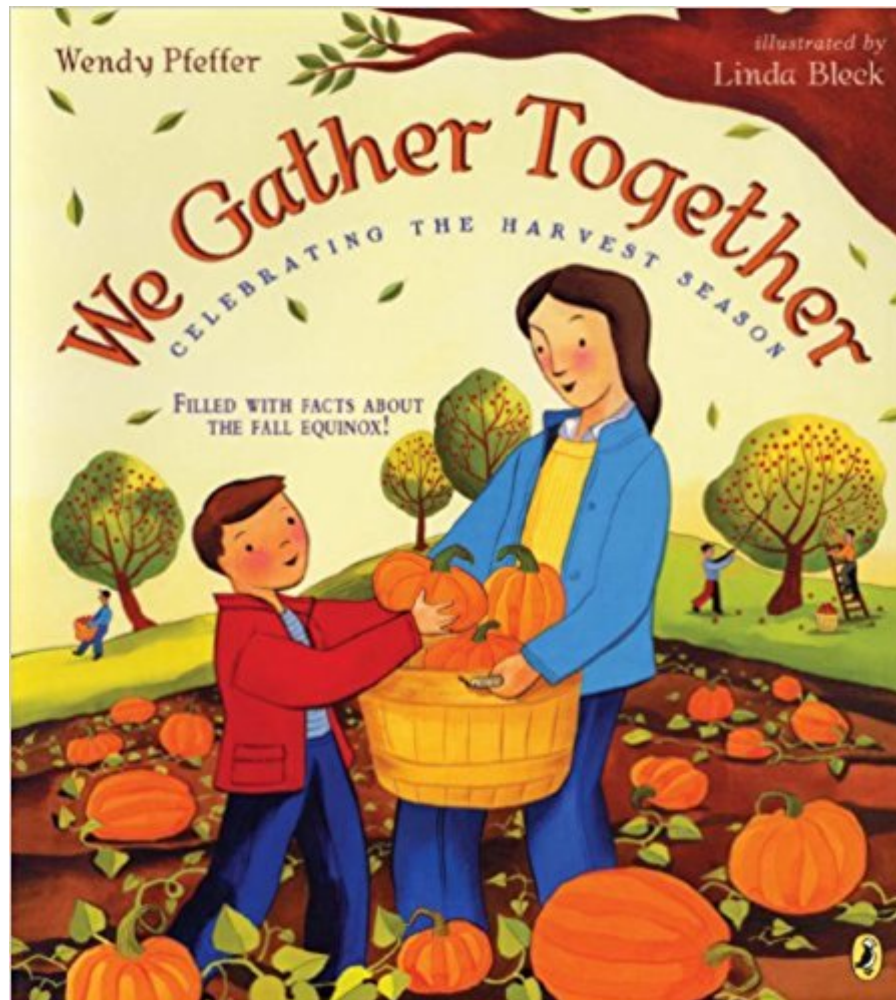




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# We Gather Together: Celebrating The Harvest Season



## Synopsis

What is the fall equinox? The official start of the harvest season, it occurs around September 21 each year. It marks the end of summer and the beginning of longer nights and shorter days. For many cultures around the world, the fall equinox represents a time to celebrate the harvest and begin collecting and storing crops. Looking at both the science of weather and the history of how the fall equinox has been celebrated by various cultures throughout the world, this book will inspire a new understanding of autumn and the harvest season. Science activities, ideas for celebrating the fall equinox, and further reading list included!

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews

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Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

## Customer Reviews

Grade 1-4 "In this companion to *The Shortest Day: Celebrating the Winter Solstice* (Dutton, 2003), Pfeffer covers a great deal of territory. She describes the changes in the weather and the ways in which people and animals prepare for the coming winter. She provides specific information as to why seasons change and describes the way the harvest has been celebrated by different cultures throughout history. Back matter includes equinox facts, a recipe for Equinox corn muffins, and a craft activity. Although a substantial amount of information is presented, Pfeffer's lively writing style will keep readers engaged. Bleck's vibrantly hued illustrations, reminiscent of the work of Leonard Weisgard, are carefully interwoven with the text and enhance the book. A useful and attractive

addition for most collections.â “Grace Oliff, Ann Blanche Smith School, Hillsdale, NJ Copyright Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In a companion to Pfeffer's *The Shortest Day: Celebrating the Winter Solstice* (2003), this picture book begins with a description of what some animals and humans do during the autumn season to prepare for winter. There's information on the autumnal equinox, a history of harvesting in various cultures, a look at harvesting celebrations in several cultures, and more. The text is short, clear, and to the point, and the full-page illustrations, which have a 1950s retro look, are very child friendly. Inviting pictures of animals and people from past and current times and cultures will draw readers into the text. The book concludes with two simple experiments along with activities and information to encourage children to learn more about the equinox and harvest festivities. Randall Enos Copyright Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A kids' text, no matter how nice and photogenic, has a linear feel to it. The first impression I had after several readings of this book was that it flowed from the storybook like descriptions of the festivals, but did not halt suddenly for the science explanations. I think to gather kids who like one but not the other (storybooks or science) this is a good crossover book. As a reader I liked the nostalgic illustrations. As a person who teaches and tutors second language learners, I liked the comprehensible text with vocabulary not too difficult and not overly simplified for the ESL, ELL and EFL 'world'. I especially liked the easy to understand instructions for experiments and the recipe. Homeschoolers and tutors should find the in-book lesson plan ideas and festival follow ups very clear and inviting to use the book as a teaching tool. As a long time resident of Japan, I had an instant memory clip of the fascination I had for moon viewing. The very early royals built moon viewing rooms in their palaces and even today there are moon viewing excursions for the sentimental. In that ever festivaling country, the lantern and moon viewing celebrations are of the most evocative. For children raised in the city, this is a good introduction to how food is harvested and celebrated around the world. For parents interested in interesting ways to present diversity, it is delightful. I would recommend it without hesitation.

This entire series is absolutely perfect for helping families teach their kids about the many types of celebrations that surround our holidays. My family isn't particularly religious but we are spiritual and

love the ritual of holidays. Lots of ideas for incorporating traditions from many cultures, while still giving a fair nod to the leading religions of modern society.

Great for the harvest season.

Really sweet book about the harvest and Thanksgiving season. Added this to our autumn book collection.

This is a delightful book to be enjoyed by all ages, and for us to remember all cultures share a celebration of thanks!

I have been unable to use this book as the teaching tool I was hoping to for my 3 1/2 year old son because he has a passionate loathing for the pumpkins on the cover. I really don't understand why. The text is engaging enough, if only we could get there...

Am I just being a stick-in-the-mud by being put off by the section in this book on Japan? I know the author writes a lot of books for children, but she herself need not be so juvenile as to confuse Japan and China. The illustrations and descriptions of "Japanese" celebrations were an inconsiderate mishmash of Japanese and Chinese cliches. It threw the whole book into doubt. Does this really matter? For all I knew, I was reading Americanized cliches of every other culture touched upon in this book. This happens in all sorts of entertainment. I'm sure medical doctors roll their eyes at tv hospital dramas, and software engineers cringe at plots revolving around "technology". But in the case of a childrens book, wouldn't real cultural traditions have been just as good?

I'm giving this book 3 stars because the cover is a bit misleading. I've been studying children's books of late, and this cover picture and the informative text are not a good pair. I had no issues with the text or the content, but it does seem like a lot of information for a children's book. I had some older kids stop reading midway through the book. As an adult reader and scientist, I loved it, but I'm not the intended audience.

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