

APPLES FOR CIDER

Parent/Teacher Guide



About Apples for Cider

Apples for Cider, written and illustrated by Alis Wintle Sefick, is a picture book for 3–7-year-olds about a little girl and her Nana who go into an orchard to pick apples for cider making. While intent on filling their baskets, they lose each other and get all mixed up with other creatures in the orchard! It's uncertain if they'll ever find each other and get the apples they need for the cider.

Prompts for Before, During, and After Reading



Before:

- What do you think this book will be about?
- Where do you think this book takes place?
- What is the little girl holding?

During:

- Do you think Fia and Little Fawn are scared when they find out they have lost their parent/grandparent? Do they look scared?
- When they are all mixed up in the orchard, can you find everyone?
- What else is in the orchard when they are all mixed up?

After:

- What is happening on the very last page? How do you think Fia and Papa make cider from the apples? What are they using to make the cider?
- How do you think the illustrator made the pictures in the book? Have you ever used collage or paper to make a picture?

In the Orchard...

The story takes place in an apple orchard on Sodus Bay in Wolcott, New York.

- How is the place where Fia picks up apples alike or different from where you live?
- Did you notice that the book says that Fia and Nana pick “up” apples?
 - Fia and Nana pick up apples off the ground to make their cider. They do not pick apples off of the tree. The apples on the trees are the apples the apple farmer will pick to sell.
- Refer to the picture of the characters all mixed up in the orchard. Point out how the farmer picks the apples using a tractor pulling a trailer. The apple pickers ride on the trailer, pick the apples, and put them in the big bins.
- In New York State, most apple trees are grown on trellises, a system of posts and wires that support the growing trees. This way, each tree produces more apples, an average of 100 apples per tree.

Apples for Cider and Social-Emotional Health

Questions to ask to help children define emotions/feelings: How do you think the characters are feeling when:

- Fia and Nana set out to pick up apples?
- Fia gets tires and sits down to eat apples? Can you have two feelings at one time?
- Fia finds other animals and not her Nana? (What other animals did Fia find?)
- Nana thinks Fia is behind her but it's Little Fawn?
- Little Fawn's father think Little Fawn is behind him but it's Fia?
- Little Fawn and his father go home?
- Fia and Nana go home?
- Fia makes apple cider with her Papa?

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Guide continued...



Making Apple Cider

Show students the final picture in the book and ask questions to see if the students can figure out how apple cider is made. Some questions to ask:

- Who is in this picture? Fia and her Papa
- What do you think they are doing? Using the apples Nana and Fia picked up in the orchard, they are “pressing” the apples into cider with a small “apple press.”
- What is Fia doing? Turning the crank on the apple press that squeezes the juice out of the apples.
- What is Papa doing? Papa is holding onto the apple press to steady it for Fia while she turns the crank. As the apple juice comes out of the press, Fia and Papa collect the juice called “cider” in a large pitcher.
- Have you ever had apple cider?



Apples for Cider Illustrations

The illustrator used paper and fabric collage to make the illustrations in the book. It's a way for artists to make pictures other than using paints, pastels, crayons, pens, or pencils. Collage artists often use a variety of different paper or fabrics to create their pictures.

Collage Making Activity: Have kids work on making their own collages.

- Start with a sheet of paper or board as a base to build the collage.
- Use whatever you have. Magazines and colored paper work well and can be cut or torn. Pieces of fabric for smaller children would be a little more difficult unless the fabric was cut into pieces beforehand.
- Have kids use glue to secure their cut or torn paper or fabric onto their base paper or board.



Apples for Cider is a “pastiche” of Blueberries for Sal

Apples for Cider is an imitation of Blueberries for Sal. Read both books and compare the two:

How are the books the same? How are they different? In regard to:

- Characters
- Where the stories take place
- The “creatures” the characters run into
- What the characters make after picking fruit
- Illustrations
- Author



About the Author/Illustrator

[Alis Wintle Sefick](#) is an artist, author/illustrator, and mental health educator. Her accomplishments include curriculum development honors from the NYS Education Dept., inclusion in an Everson Museum art exhibition, a Syracuse New Times Art Writer, and a [National Parenting Education Network](#) Board Member. Alis shares her mental, social, and emotional health curricula in her [Teachers Pay Teachers store](#) and her [artwork in her Etsy shop](#). “Apples for Cider” is her first self-published picture book. Alis plays “Nana” in the book!