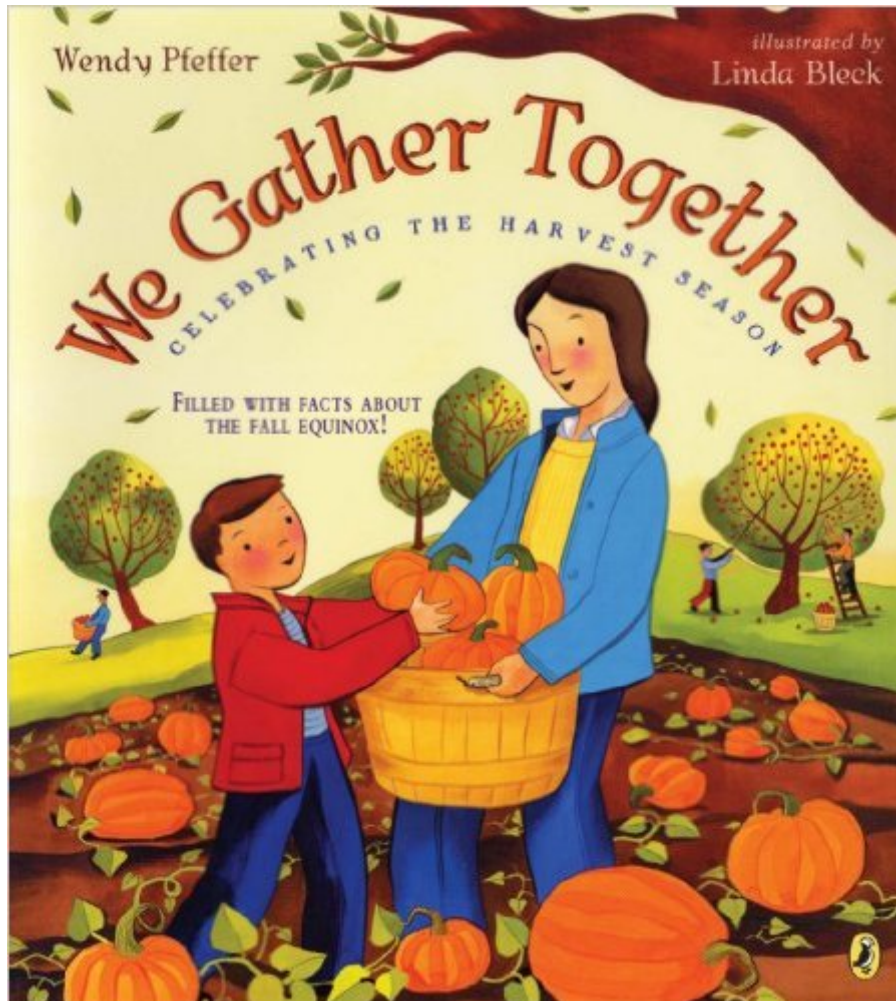


The book was found

# 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

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books; Reprint edition (October 2, 2014)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.2 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars See all reviews (7 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #81,435 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #55 in Books > Children's Books >

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Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

## Customer Reviews

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.

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 clichés. It threw the whole book into doubt. Does this really matter? For all I knew, I was reading Americanized clichés 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 children's 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.

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

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