

Why Leaves Turn Color in the Fall

Essay by Diane Ackerman

Can **BEAUTY** be captured in words?



SUNSHINE STATE STANDARDS

Reading Process

Benchmark LA.910.1.7.2 Analyze the author's purpose and/or perspective in a variety of text and understand how they affect meaning.

Benchmark LA.910.1.7.4 Identify cause-and-effect relationships in text.

KEY IDEA How would you describe a beautiful sunset to someone who had not seen it? How would you explain this same sunset to a child who wondered why it occurred? Would explaining the sunset make it seem more beautiful, or less? In the following essay, Diane Ackerman captures the **beauty** of autumn leaves while explaining the scientific concepts behind their occurrence.

DISCUSS Describe to a partner, in as much detail as you can, a beautiful scene from nature. This might be a sunset (as mentioned before), a flock of birds taking wing, or any other natural phenomenon. Afterward, discuss how easy—or hard—it was for you to convert the scene to words and for your partner to visualize the scene.

