

AUTUMN FOR CHILDREN

“Acting is a nice childish profession - pretending you’re someone else and, at the same time, selling yourself.” - Katharine Hepburn

BEAR FILMED UNDER COLOURFUL FALL LEAVES



Sylvia Lismore

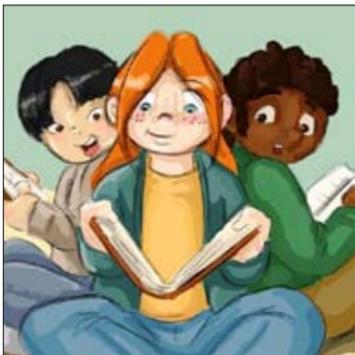
“Look at the sky,” 10-year-old Timmy said. “See all that orange colour? That means Autumn is coming soon.”
 “I love autumn,” said James, Timmy’s friend.
 “This fall, ask your mom to borrow the movie camera and we will make a movie with all the leaves. Last year, Ellie and Margy Smith made one and took it to school. It was shown to the whole class. Everybody loved it.”
 A voice sounded behind them.
 “Of course, I will let you use the camera.”
 Timmy turned around and ran to his Mom.
 “Thanks Mom, that would be great. Do you mind if we do it ourselves?”
 “I’d be delighted,” smiled Helen Williams.
 “I have one idea already,” said James. “What if we pile all the leaves and I could wear that big furry coat I got last Christmas and crawl underneath the leaves, so I can’t be seen.”
 James got even more excited and said, “With the camera, Timmy can say ‘We are about to capture a brown bear. It is unusual to see a bear in Mississauga. Stay tuned.’”
 Helen Williams laughed delightedly, “It’s a great idea, but be careful you don’t injure the bear.”
 The boys laughed.
 Waiting patiently for the leaves to change colour, the boys prepared for the movie they were anxious to make.
 Each day they cheered when the trees changed from green, to orange and red and golden.
 When the leaves started falling, they took out garden rakes and piled the leaves as high as they could.
 Helen Williams watched, smiling. She wouldn’t have to do much raking this year.
 James ran into his house and appeared with his big furry coat on, his head under the hood and wearing a brown mask over his face.
 Helen Williams laughed as she went into the house to get the camera.
 When she came out, James was nowhere to be seen.
 She gave the camera to Timmy and he aimed it at the leaves.
 “Come on out James,” he was calling. “Rustle the leaves and start roaring.”
 A big roar came from the leaves and suddenly a big furry head appeared.
 The head started moving from side to side.
 The big furry beast roared and, covered in leaves, started to chase Timmy.
 Timmy jumped up and down and said, “That’s good. Keep it up.”



Timmy announced, in a deep voice, “Ladies and gentlemen, this is the first wild bear to be seen in Mississauga. Please stay back.”
 A dozen or so neighbours had heard the roaring and stopped by to watch the fun.
 Two local boys helped Timmy and his mother to catch the bear and tie him up.
 When they took off the mask, they laughed with surprise to see James.
 Everyone watching cheered.
 Helen invited everyone to stay that evening and watch the movie on TV.
 It was also played at the school and was a big success.
Sylvia Lismore writes short stories.



If you’re on a treadmill next to me, the answer is: “yes ... we are racing.”



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