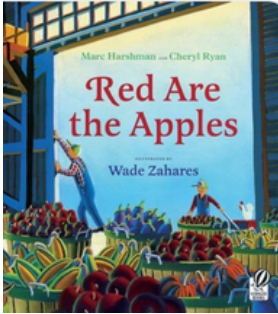


Chapter Two

Red Are the Apples by Marc Harshman



Red Are the Apples by Marc Harshman and Cheryl Ryan is a cheerful rhyming celebration of an autumn harvest, taking your family through a colorful garden filled with apples, pumpkins, corn, eggplants, and other crops. Wade Zahares's vibrant pastel illustrations use bright fall colors and playful perspectives to make the farm and its harvest come alive. It is out of print but worth the search.



THE STORY

Read The Story

Red Are the Apples is a wonderful book to read more than once. The language is simple and musical, the illustrations invite careful looking, and there is plenty to notice each time you return to the pages. Start by simply reading and enjoying the book together. Then read it again. Read the book aloud several times during the week. Invite your children to join in on words or phrases they recognize.

Narrate & Tell It Back

Close the book and ask your child to tell you what happened. Younger children can tell you a little bit. Older children can retell the story in their own words and in order. Notice the details. Talk about the characters and setting. *Where are they? What do you see? What is happening around them? What animals, plants, tools, foods, and people do you notice?* Savor the language. Listen carefully to the words. The poem in this book uses a simple ABCB rhyming pattern. See whether your children can hear which lines rhyme. We will explore this more in The Words section. Enjoy the sound of the words! Resist turning every page into literary analysis. Read the book, look at the pictures, and enjoy being together. Let's explore more ways you can create conversation around this book in the next section, Table Talk.

TABLE TALK



You don't need to ask every question. Pick one that catches your children's attention and see where the conversation goes.

Talk About Color

The book gives you a great reason to spend some time noticing color.

- The apples are red. What other things can you think of that are red?
- The corn is yellow. What else is yellow?
- The sky is blue. What else is blue?
- What is your favorite color?
- How many things can you name that are your favorite color?
- Which color do you notice the most?

For a fun challenge, choose one color and see how many things your family can find around the house that match it.

Talk About Farms

One good question can lead to a wonderful conversation. You don't need to get through the list.

- If we had a farm, what animals would you want to have?
- Which animals would you want to take care of?
- What should we grow?
- Would you rather have an apple orchard, a vegetable garden, or both?
- What would your imaginary farm look like?
- What jobs would need to be done every day?
- What do you notice about the scarecrow? What is his job? Do you think it is working?
- What pesky animals visit our yard or neighborhood? Are they harmful or helpful?

Talk About Cooperation & Hard Work

After reading *Red Are the Apples*, read another story about people working together. Three of my favorites are *Stone Soup* by Marcia Brown, the classic story, *The Little Red Hen* and Aesop's fable, "The Ants and Grasshoppers."

- Talk about the similarities and differences.
- Who helps?
- Who doesn't help?
- What happens when everyone works together?
- What happens when you don't prepare or work consistently?

THE WORDS

This book gives you an easy introduction to poetry.



Explore Quatrains

Each page is a simple quatrain, a poem made up of four lines. You can point out the rhyming pattern, but then let your children have fun playing with words. Start with the familiar poem “Roses are Red, Violets are Blue”... Now change it!

- Change the colors.
- Change what is red.
- Change the last two lines.
- Choose a new topic.
- Try to make the last two lines rhyme. They don't have to be perfect.

Write a Food Quatrain

Write a four-line poem about your favorite food. Older students can try to mimic the ABCB pattern.

Choose a favorite:

- fruit
- vegetable
- snack
- dessert

Compose an Acrostic Poem

Choose a favorite color or food and write the word vertically down the page. Then think of words that start with each letter that are the chosen color.

For example:

R — race car, roses, radishes

E — erasers, engines, earrings

D — dragon, dress, door

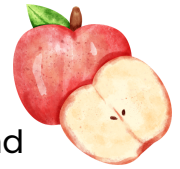
Now try another word. It can be a different color, a food item, or a word associated with farms. How many words can you think of that start with each letter? Don't forget to illustrate your poem.

Word Hunt

Choose a word from the book and think of words that begin with the same sound. For older children, find words that:

- rhyme
- have the same beginning sound
- have the same ending sound
- are nouns
- are action words

THE WONDER



The farm in this book gives you a wonderful excuse to get outside and explore plants, seeds, soil, gardens, farms, animals, food, and the changing seasons.

Explore a Farm or Apple Orchard

Visit a local farm or apple orchard. Before you go, make a family list of things you might find on a farm such as different animals, fruits, vegetables, crops, tools, machines, etc., Then look through the book and see how many things from your list you can find.

Visit a Local Farmer's Market

No farm or orchard nearby? Visit a local farmer's market instead. Take a little field trip.

- Look for foods from the book.
- How many colors can you find? What is growing right now?
- Which fruits and vegetables are unfamiliar?
- Let your children choose one thing they've never tasted before to buy.

Play Farm "I Spy"

Choose something from the book and see who can find it first.

Try:

- "I Spy a goose!"
- "I Spy something yellow!"
- "I Spy something we eat!"
- "I Spy something that grows!"
- See who can find the goose or ducks on each page.

Grow Something

Germinate a seed. Sprout a bean in a clear container (or a transparent baggie lined with moisten paper towels). Watch the roots and stem develop. Every few days, draw what you see.

Try growing in your yard or on your windowsill:

- beans
- corn
- squash or pumpkins
- carrots or beets from the tops

Try growing a "Three Sisters" Garden. If you have room, learn about the traditional practice of growing corn, beans, and squash together. Talk about how the plants can help one another grow.

THE WONDER



Try a Leaf Experiment

What you need:

- A healthy leafy plant or a leafy branch still attached to a plant
- A clear plastic baggie (ziplock or regular)
- A string, twist tie, or rubber band

Steps:

1. Choose a leaf or small group of leaves that are in the sun.
2. Carefully place the clear plastic baggie over the leaf. Cover completely.
3. Seal the bag tightly around the stem with the string.
4. Leave it alone for a few hours (or overnight).

What Is Happening: Water vapor escapes from the leaf (this is called Transpiration). It collects and turns into water droplets inside the bag.

Make Nature Rubbings

Collect interesting fallen leaves or pieces of bark. Place paper over the surface and gently rub with the side of a crayon. Compare the patterns and textures.

Go On a Seed Pod Hunt

Walk around your yard, neighborhood, or a local park and search for different kinds of seed pods. When you get home, try to identify which tree each seed pod came from. Sort the pods by shape, size, color, or texture. Then use them to create a simple centerpiece.

Get Dirty

Learn about soil. Dig in a little patch of dirt. What do you find? Rocks? Roots? Worms? Bugs? Bits of leaves? Talk about what soil does for plants and why healthy soil matters. For fun, make mud pies.

Make Compost

First, learn what can be composted. Sort a few kitchen scraps into: compostable and not compostable. Then start a small compost container. Gather brown materials (dry leaves, shredded paper, or cardboard), green materials (vegetable scraps, fruit peels, grass clippings, or coffee grounds), water, and a few handfuls of worms. Start with a layer of coarse browns for air flow, then alternate layers of greens and browns, moistening lightly as you go. Add a few handfuls of worms and cover them with browns. Turn it every week and keep it slightly damp. If you don't have room outside, create a miniature compost with a large glass jar and lid.

BRAIN FOOD



This is where we turn the book into opportunities to count, measure, compare, estimate, plan, and figure things out.

Let's Measure

Measure an apple. Choose an apple and measure its weight, height, and circumference. Before you measure, have everyone guess. Who came closest?

Are pumpkins in season? Measure a few. Measure them around the middle. Then measure their heights. If you have more than one pumpkin, compare them. Which is the tallest? shortest? heaviest? lightest? widest?

Measure the vegetables in your refrigerator or garden such as cucumbers, carrots, zucchini, corn, and/or potatoes. Put them in order from shortest to longest.

Is it watermelon season? If so measure a watermelon. Estimate first its weight and then weigh it. How close was your guess? Try the same thing with a few other foods. Older students can make bar graphs of their findings.

Measure your plants. If you plant seeds, keep track of how tall they become. Measure every few days. How much did they grow? Which plant grew the most? Why did some grow larger or faster? Older students can construct a line graph.

Counting Time

Cut an apple across the middle and count the seeds. Do all the apples have the same number? Make a simple chart. Open seed packets. Count and sort them. Save them for an art activity in The Creative Corner section.

For fun, read a few food counting books and do the counting activities as you read : Here are some of my favorite classics that go with this chapter's theme:

- *Ten Apples on Top* by Dr. Seuss
- *Ten Red Apples* by Pat Hutchins
- *Each Orange Had 8 Slices: A Counting Book* by Paul Giganti Jr
- *Counting in the Garden* by Patrick Hruby
- *How Many Seeds in a Pumpkin?* by Margaret McNamara

Cook With Math

Whenever you cook, look for opportunities to: count, measure, compare, double a recipe, halve a recipe, divide food equally, estimate, sort, or apply real-world math problems. For example: "How many apple slices does each person get if we divide them equally?"

BRAIN FOOD

The book is practically begging you to head into the kitchen! Choose an apple recipe and invite everyone to help. While you're cooking, talk about the book, apples, farms, family traditions, or whatever else comes up.



Cook & Chat Recipes

Apple Butter

Ingredients

- 6–8 apples, peeled, cored, and sliced
- 1/2 cup apple cider or apple juice
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla



Directions:

- 1). Place the sliced apples in a slow cooker. Add the cider, brown sugar, cinnamon, nutmeg, and vanilla.
- 2). Cook on low for 6–8 hours, or until the apples are very soft.
- 3). Mash with a potato masher or blend until smooth.
- 4). Let it cool and spread it on toast, biscuits, pancakes, or whatever sounds good!



Warm Apple Cider

Ingredients

- 8 cups apple cider (or apple juice)
- 2 cinnamon sticks
- 4–5 whole cloves
- 1 orange, sliced

Directions:

- 1). Add everything to a large pot or crock pot.
- 2). Warm over low heat for about 20–30 minutes or simmer if using a crock pot.
- 3). Remove the spices and orange slices before serving.
- 4). Pour into mugs and enjoy together.



Check out Carrie's "Cook & Chat" Recipe reels on Instagram @coffeewithcarrieconsultant and on TikTok @coffeewcarrie.

THE CREATIVE CORNER



This book is bursting with color, texture, music, movement, and things to make.

Make a Color Wheel

Introduce the basic color wheel.

Talk about:

- primary colors
- secondary colors
- warm colors
- cool colors

Then make your own color wheel. Once you've made it, look back through the book. Can you find each color?

Go On a Color Hunt

Choose one color from the color wheel. How many things can you find in the book that are that color? Now try it around your house and in your yard.

Make a Color Collage

Pick one color. Look through old magazines, catalogs, junk mail, or scraps of paper. Cut out everything you can find in that color and make a collage. Try a different color another day.

Draw Like the Illustrator

Look carefully at the illustrations. Use pastels, crayons, or another medium that gives you a soft, colorful look like the ones in *Red Are the Apples*. Try drawing your home, your backyard, a farm, a barn, a garden, or an orchard. Use pastels to illustrate your poems that you wrote in The Word section.

Study perspective. Look at how the illustrations are drawn. Some views look down over the farm. Some are close-up. Some are angled. Some show a wider view. Talk about how the illustrator changes the way we see the scene. For older children, introduce the idea of perspective and the horizon line. Then let them try drawing a scene using a horizon line.

Make Seed Art

Collect different kinds of seeds and beans from your pantry. Look at their colors, shapes, sizes, and textures. Then arrange them into a picture or design. You could make an apple, a flower, an animal, a farm, or simply create your own pattern.

THE CREATIVE CORNER



Build a Farm

Pull out your:

- blocks
- LEGO pieces
- Magna-Tiles
- wooden blocks
- cardboard boxes

Include a house, a fence, a barn, a garden, a road, rows of trees or crops, and animals.

Sing Farm Songs

Learn and sing a few classic children's songs with farm themes. Add motions, act out the animals, or make up your own verses.

Sing some of these classics:

- "The Farmer in the Dell"
- "Old MacDonald Had a Farm"
- "B-I-N-G-O"

Play the Animal Sound Game

Play a version of *Marco Polo* using animal sounds. One person closes his eyes while the others scatter around the room. Choose an animal. Everyone makes that animal's sound. The person in the middle tries to find or tag someone by following the sounds. Switch roles and choose a new animal.

Describe a Picture

Choose a favorite illustration from the book. Ask your child to describe what he sees. What colors are there? What is near? What is far away? What is happening? Using pastels, chalk, or crayons, draw a scene from the book.

Act Out a Story

Pick one of your favorite animal Aesop fables or animal nursery rhymes such as "The Three Little Pigs" or "The Lion and the Mouse." Act out the story.

Vegetable Stamping

Gather a few apples and other firm vegetables such as potatoes, carrots, celery, or bell peppers, along with tempera or acrylic paint and paper. Cut the apple or vegetable in half to create a flat printing surface. Pour a thin layer of paint onto a paper plate. Press the cut side of the fruit or vegetable into the paint, then stamp it firmly onto paper. Lift carefully to reveal the print. Experiment with different cuts, colors, and vegetables to create patterns, flowers, or abstract designs. Let the prints dry completely before displaying them.

THE MOVE



Today, did we move? Let's get off the couch and onto the farm!

Animal Charades

Call out an animal. Everyone acts it out.

Start with some of these:

- cow
- horse
- pig
- chicken
- duck
- goose
- goat

For an extra challenge, see who can make everyone else guess the animal without making the animal's sound.

Play Classic Games

- Play *Duck, Duck, Goose* of course! This classic game fits the book perfectly. Play outside if you can.
- Play *Farmer Says* (a version of *Simon Says*). The farmer gives animal motions to do such as waddle like a duck, walk like a chicken, etc.
- Play *Red Light, Green Light*. It goes perfect with the color theme.
- Play *Potato Sack Races*. If you don't have potato sacks, use pillowcases instead.

Farm Movement Game

Call out a farm job and let everyone act it out. Make it silly. That's the point. Here are some fun ones to start with:

- "Milk the cow!"
- "Plant the seeds!"
- "Pull the weeds!"
- "Feed the chickens!"
- "Pick the apples!"
- "Drive the tractor!"

Harvest Relay Races

Break up into two teams. Gather two baskets. Place several real or pretend fruits or vegetables at one end of the yard. One at a time, players run, pick up one item, and bring it back to the basket. The team that gathers all of the produce first, wins the game.

THE HOME



A farm reminds us that keeping things growing and running takes teamwork, cooperation, responsibility, and hard work. So does a family!

Work in the Garden

If you have a garden, let the children help:

- water
- weed
- plant
- harvest
- gather leaves
- move soil

No garden? Help care for a few pots or plants instead.

Help Cook

Give your children a real job in the kitchen. Remember, you're not just making dinner. You're teaching them how to contribute to the family and to care for each other. Children can:

- wash
- peel or tear lettuce
- measure or cut
- stir or pour
- set the table
- clean up
- help cook (Check out the recipes in "Brain Food".)

Make a Rainbow Fruit or Vegetable Platter

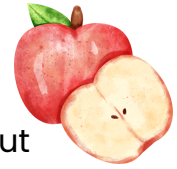
Choose fruits and vegetables- one for each color of the rainbow. Let your children wash, count, sort, and arrange them into a rainbow. Then sit down and eat it together!

Teamwork on the Farm—and at Home

Talk about all the jobs that would need to happen on a farm. Then make a family list.

- What jobs need to happen in your home? Who does them?
- What would happen if nobody helped?
- How can we make the work easier by working together?
- How do we help one another?
- What is one job you don't mind doing? What is one job that is hard for you?
- How does our family work together like a team?

THE HEART



This is the shelf where we slow down and remember that life is about more than productivity. At the end of the book, *Red Are the Apples*, the farmer and his family give thanks.

Talk About Gratitude

The farmer and his family have many things to be thankful for. So do you! Make a family gratitude list.

- What are you thankful for today?
- What food are you thankful for?
- Who helps provide the food we eat?
- What are some ordinary things that make you happy?
- What is something you might forget to be thankful for?

Read It One More Time

At the end of the week, rest, and read the book again. No activity. No worksheets. No questions. Just the story. Enjoy the time together.



More Good Books

Here are books you can read instead of the featured book, alongside the featured book, after the featured book, or simply just because:

- *One Green Apple* by Eve Bunting, illustrated by Ted Lewin
- *Tiny Seed* by Eric Carle (author and illustrator)
- *Apple Cake: A Gratitude* by Dawn Casey, illustrated by Genevieve Godbout
- *Planting a Rainbow Garden* by Lois Ehlert (author and illustrator)
- *The Seasons of Arnold's Apple Tree* by Gail Gibbons (author and illustrator)
- *Apples to Oregon: Being the (Slightly) True Narrative of How a Brave Pioneer Father Brought Apples, Peaches, Pears, Plums, Grapes, and Cherries (and Children) Across the Plains* by Deborah Hopkinson, illustrated by Nancy Carpenter
- *Johnny Appleseed* by Steven Kellogg (author and illustrator)
- *The Gravity Tree: The True Story of a Tree That Inspired the World* by Anna Crowley Redding, illustrated by Yas Imamura
- *Rain Makes Applesauce* by Julian Scheer, illustrated by Marvin Bileck
- *The Apple Cake* by Nienke van Hichtum, illustrated by Marjan van Zeyl
- *Apple Farmer Annie* by Monica Wellington (author and illustrator)