THE LEAF THIEF
ALICE HEMMING & NICOLA SLATER

SUMMARY

Squirrel wakes up one morning to look at all the beautiful leaves on his tree. Suddenly he notices- one of them has been stolen! He runs around the forest talking to all of his friends, trying to figure out who stole it. Each day, more of his leaves are stolen. Where are they going? Why does everyone keep telling him to calm down?

Questions:

1. Have you ever been completely happy and felt great, only to have your mood completely ruined?

2. What does it feel like to lose something? Is it easy to get over? Do you feel scared or even panicked while looking for it?

3. When you are extremely worried and anxious, does someone telling you that you're worried over nothing and to relax help or hurt? What might help more? If they help you look? If they sit with you and listen while you talk about how worried you are? If they give you hugs and tell you they care?

4. Do you know anyone who gets worried really easily? Do you know anyone who doesn't get worried at all? Is that something you can control? Is one type of person wrong and another one right? What should you do if someone is worried and anxious about something you think is silly?

5. Is anyone stealing Squirrel's leaves? Why is he so worried about it? When something changes, is it always easy to deal with? Do some people struggle with change more than others? What can you do to help yourself through it? What can you do to help others through it?

6. When things change does it sometimes feel like they'll never be normal again? Is that feeling scary?

7. Is Bird right to sigh and be annoyed by Squirrel? Is feeling that way understandable? FEELINGS ARE FINE! Feelings are valid. If Bird treats Squirrel poorly because of Squirrel's feelings, is that okay? How can Bird help Squirrel this time? What helps you when you feel bad?

8. Is it always other people's responsibility to help you, or do you also need to learn to help yourself sometimes? Is it maybe best when someone helps you and you help yourself?