

## Summer's Vacation ~ Learning Activities



· The Lynn Plourde and Greg Couch books which include *Wild Child*, *Winter Waits*, *Spring's Sprung*, and *Summer's Vacation* have been called a "cycle." Why do you think they are called that? Who appears at the end of the summer book? Which season do you enjoy the most? Which of the four season books is your favorite? Why? What season is your birthday in? Which season book do your classmates or family members enjoy the most? Do a survey and compare and see if there is a relationship between people's favorite seasons and the season of their birth dates.

· The child character in each of the season books has a problem (i.e. Autumn, the wild child, doesn't want to go to bed). What is Summer's problem in *Summer's Vacation*? How does her problem get solved at the end of the book? Can you think of a different problem that a Summer child might have (i.e. she's too hot, gets too many bug bites) and how she could solve that new problem.

· This book in the season series is different because for the first time BOTH parents—Mother Earth and Father Time—appear throughout the same book. Actually Autumn, Winter, the three Spring sisters, and Summer are all brothers and sisters and have the same parents. But since they appear during different seasons, they are not able to play together like other brothers and sisters. At an author visit to a school one time, a student suggested to Lynn Plourde that if the kids' father is Father Time, then he should just stop time for a day so all the kids could play together. What a great suggestion! Write and illustrate a story or scene in which all of the four season's brothers and sisters and their parents spend a day together. What will they do? Will they have a problem to solve? Will they get along or not? Will they be shy around each other? Will they want their special day to become a yearly reunion? Be creative and have fun making up such a "season combination" story/scene.

· Either draw illustrations of one of your favorite summer vacations or make a scrapbook of that vacation using real photos from the vacation. You might make your illustrations or photos look like a travel brochure or ad for your summer vacation experience so that others would be tempted to take the same vacation and do the same activities that you did.

