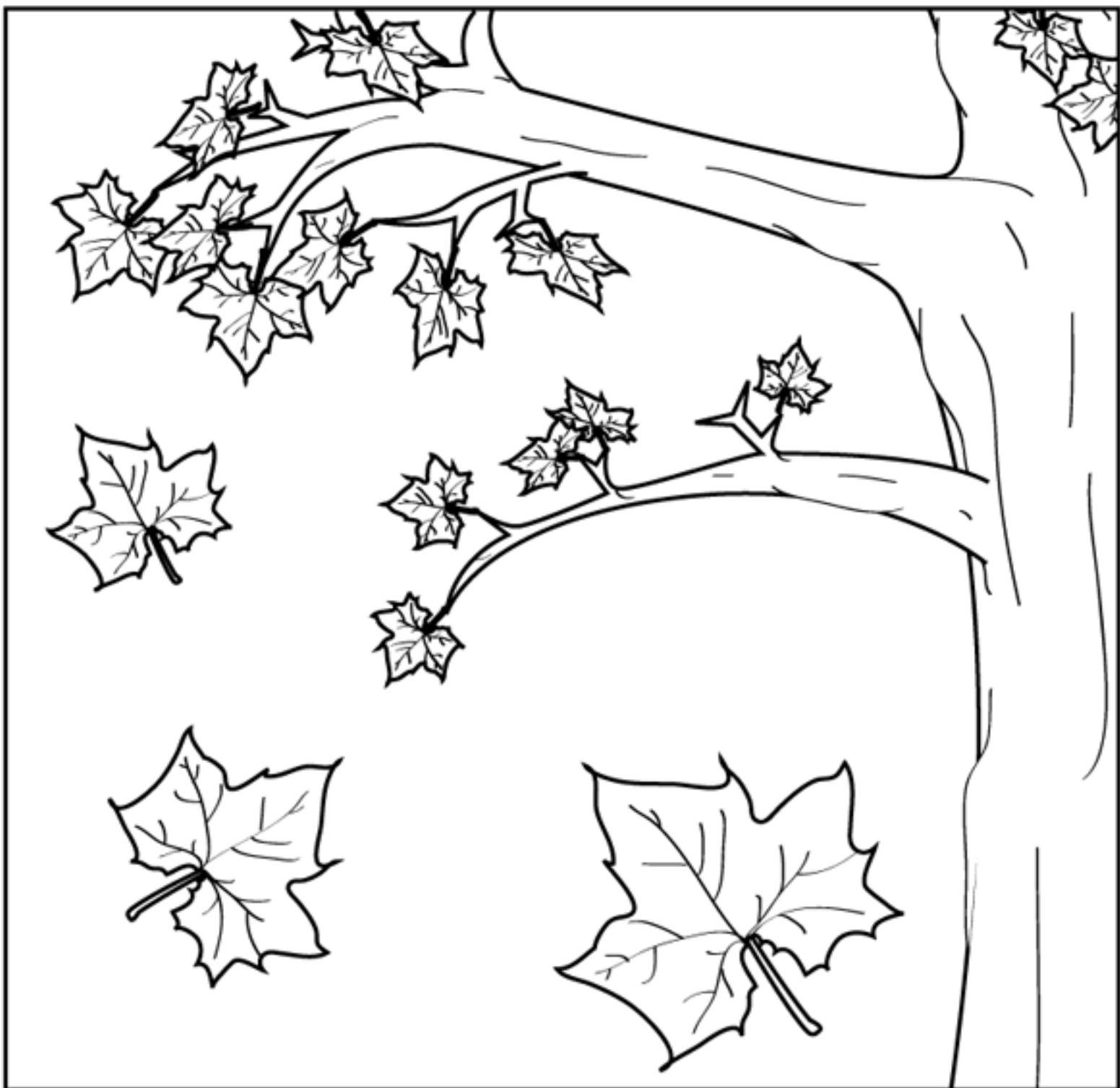


Why Do Leaves Change Color?





After Labor Day is over and the kids go back to
school,
September's days get shorter, and the air begins to
cool.

The leaves in your backyard that once were a brilliant
green
Begin to lose their color, and then they turn to
tangerine.

Green



Red



Gold

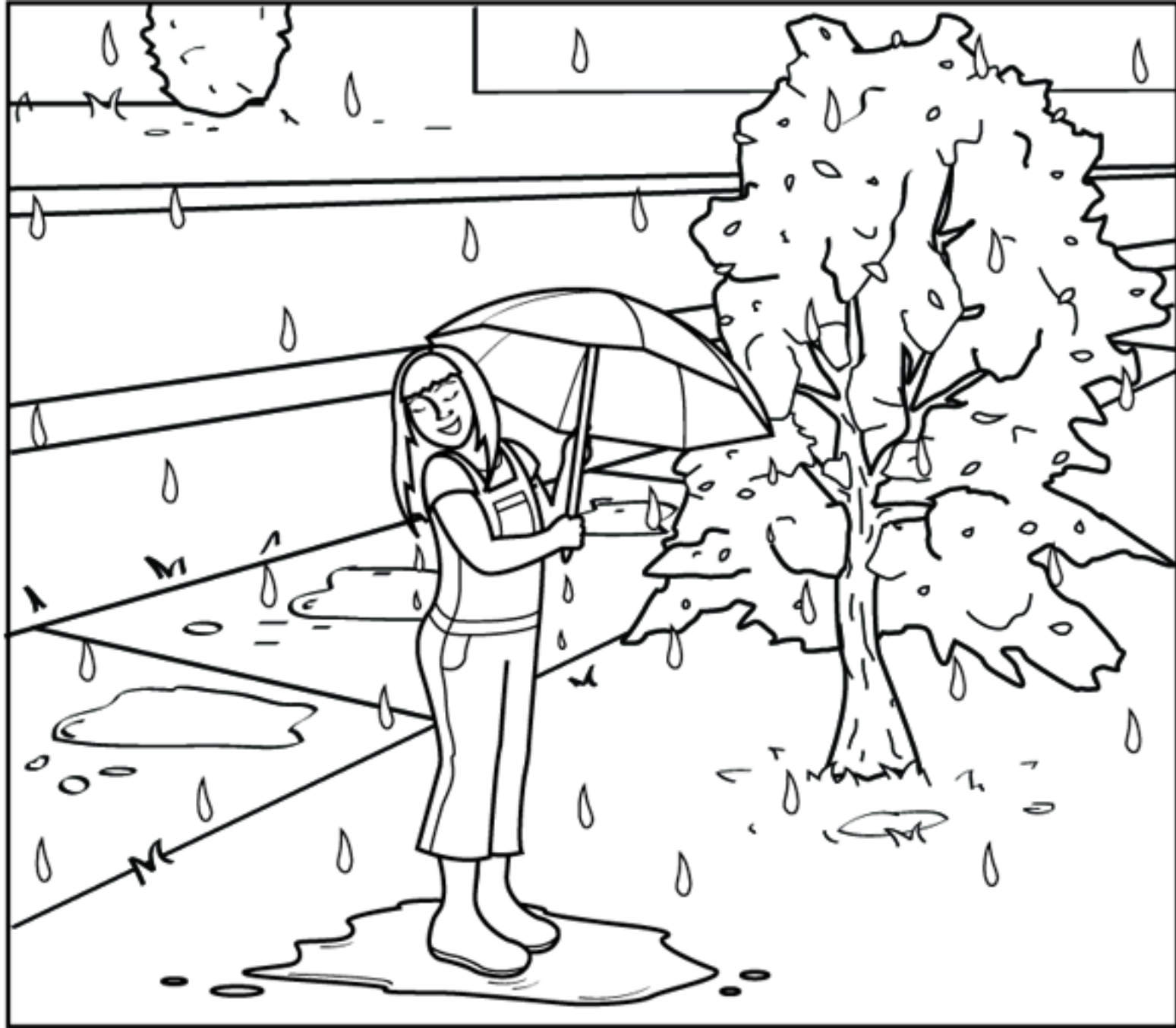


Why do leaves change their color? Why do they turn from green to red?

Why do some leaves turn brown while others shrivel up instead?

There are many reasons deciduous leaves turn from green to gold.

Weather, chlorophyll, and daylight are the main reasons we are told.



What kind of tree do you have? Is it a maple, elm, or oak?

The kind of tree determines its color when leaves put on autumn's cloak.

Another factor is the weather. Have the summer months been dry?

Or has it been a rainy season over your tree's summer sky?

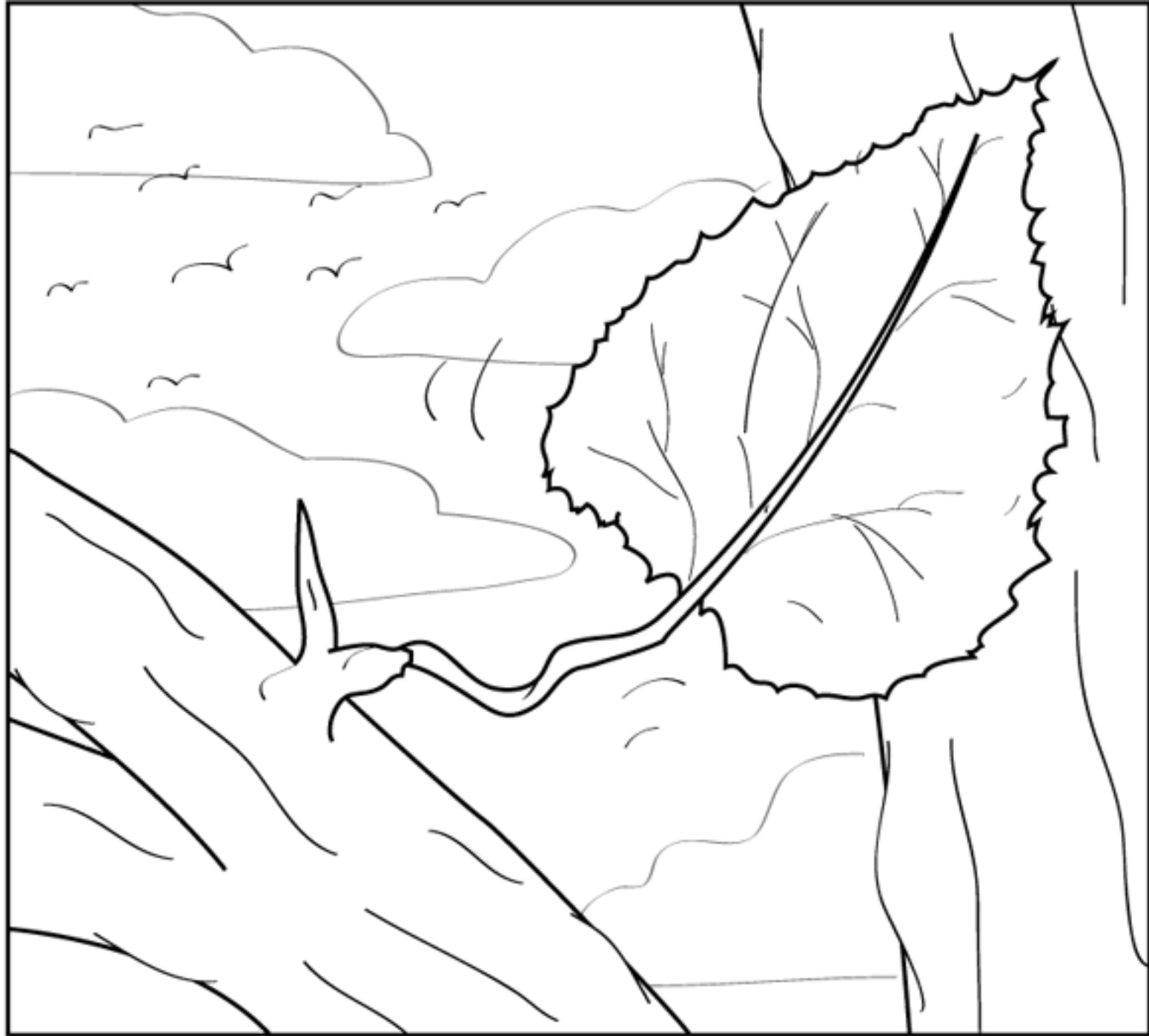


Next, the daylight hours grow shorter, increasing the length of night.

The chlorophyll stops forming because there is less sunlight.

A leaf needs water, air, and chlorophyll to make its leaves turn green.

When the chlorophyll stops producing, another color will be seen.



The calendar tells us that it's autumn. We will have a
shorter day,
And the green, once made by chlorophyll, begins to
fade away.
The leaf stops making food, and then the leaf begins
to die.
Its stem begins to wither as winter's cold draws nigh.



When the leaves have turned to yellow, they will
soon begin to fall,
And before you know it, there aren't any leaves at all.
The tree will rest all winter out there in the snow or
rain,
But when the sun comes out in spring, its leaves will
grow again.

1. What happens to the daylight when autumn comes?
 - a. It grows longer.
 - b. It grows shorter.
 - c. It stays the same all year.
 - d. all of the above

Answer: _____

2. What are three main factors in changing leaf color?
 - a. water, chlorophyll, daylight
 - b. water, air, spray
 - c. water, grass, flowers
 - d. air, fire, water

Answer: _____

3. Why does chlorophyll stop forming?
 - a. There is no air.
 - b. There is no soil.
 - c. There is too much sunlight.
 - d. There is less sunlight.

Answer: _____

4. What happens when the leaf stops making food?
 - a. The leaf begins to die.
 - b. The leaf begins to grow.
 - c. The leaf has babies.
 - d. The leaf turns green.

Answer: _____

5. What happens to a leaf when the chlorophyll fades away?
- a. It makes its own food.
 - b. It becomes very shiny.
 - c. It grows a new leaf.
 - d. It begins to turn color.

Answer: _____

6. What does a deciduous tree do in the winter?
- a. grows branches
 - b. rests
 - c. makes fruit
 - d. dies

Answer: _____