First Grade
Four Seasons

1. **Around the Year**
The Year at Maple Hill Farm
Elsa Beskow
Alice & Martin Provensen

*Main lesson book for each student, weather tree to paste in front (photocopy from All Year Round) – children need to determine colors*

How the year is divided into months and days, how the year is counted & different calendars (*Jewish calendar*), leap years

Begin personal calendar – Jan, Feb, Mar

2. **I am a Bunny**
And the Good Brown Earth
Ole Risom
Kathy Henderson

How the year is divided into seasons, noun and verb grammar lessons

Continue with calendar – Apr, May, Jun
Consider whether you want to tell a short story and illustrate it

3. **Snowy Flowy Blowy**
Knoxville, Tennessee
Nancy Tafuri
Nikki Giovanni

Adjective grammar lesson

Continue with calendar – Jul, Aug, Sep
Do you prefer one word to describe the season and a painting?

4. **Summer Is...**
Charlotte Zolotow

*“The Sun” from Treasury of Children’s Poetry p.126 & “I Asked the Little Boy Who Cannot See” p.213*

Consider the color of each season, color mixing and practice lessons (wet on wet) with poems

Continue with calendar – Oct, Nov, Dec

5. **I’m In Charge of Celebrations**
Byrd Baylor

What holidays do you want to put on your calendar?
Seasonal Poetry for Wet on Wet Watercolor Paintings

Spring – green          Summer – yellow          Autumn – red
           Winter – blue

Green
by Lilian Moore

Ducklings,
Look around.

That’s treegreen
filling the sky

and there’s grassgreen
running
up the hill
steeply.

the shadowgreen is
pine woods,
dark
old.

The yellowgreen is
young leaf
unfolding,
new
as you.

Breathe green
deeply.

The Sun
by Grace Nichols

The sun is a glowing spider
that crawls out
from under the earth
to make her way across the sky
warming and weaving
with her bright old fingers
of light.

Autumn Leaves
by Marilyn Helmer

Wind blows
and fills the skies
with gold and yellow
butterflies

which flit to earth
with skips and hops
to dance and twirl
like spinning tops.

The last one dips
in a puddle to float
like a single scarlet
sailing boat.
When All the World is Full of Snow
by N. M. Bodecker

I never know
just where to go,
when all the world
is full of snow.

I do not want
to make a track,
not even
to the shed and back.

I only want
to watch and wait,
while snow moths settle
on the gate,

and swarming frost flakes
fill the trees
with billions
of albino bees.

I want to watch
the snow swarms thin,
‘til all my bees
have settled in,

and on the ice
the boulders ride,
like sleeping snow geese
on the tide.

I only want
myself to be
as silent as
a winter tree,

to hear the swirling
stillness grow,
when all the world
is full of snow.
6  “The Spinning Earth” from *Treasury of Children’s Poetry*  
p.130  
*The Day We Saw the Sun Come Up*  
Alice Goudey  
How the Earth spins round creating day and night

7  The Shadow Book  
*The Boy with Two Shadows*  
Beatrice de Regniers  
Margaret Mahy  
Shadows and sundials

8  Once I Knew a Spider  
Jennifer Dewey  
How to read a thermometer - F and C  
Temperature charades with poems  

9  “Snow Clouds” from *Treasury of Children’s Poetry*  
p.144  
& “Wind Song”  
p.66  
Types of precipitation, types of clouds  
Painting the rainbow (Rauld Russell’s book)
Many Moons
How the Rabbit Stole the Moon

Legends about the origins of the moon - people have wondered about the sun, moon and stars since ancient times

Prepare for puppet show to be held Friday
Needle felting figures: Sun, elk, bear, snake, rabbit
Make backdrop, mountain, a silver moon, glow in the dark star stickers

Moon Mouse
Thirteen Moons on Turtle’s Back

Phases of moon (phases of moon calendar), different moons in Native American legends

“Cat in the Dark” from Treasury of Children’s Poetry
p.78

Constellations (night sky calendar)

Zoo in the Sky, Once Upon a Starry Night, constellation cards (tack punching?) and classroom materials

Zodiac

Astrological signs - bring in horoscopes

Individual zodiac artwork with silver stars and chalk pastels on black paper

Presentation of “How the Rabbit Stole the Moon” puppet show to UE & LE

I have 13 days here - you have 20 days in your month for academic work. Of course, in Trad’l Waldorf you’d do the storytelling and activity on one day and then the MLB page on the 2nd day, so this is actually enough ideas for 26 days, especially if you end the MLB page day with another story (for most days two are suggested).
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Field Trip to Smithsonian’s Natural History Museum
http://www.mnh.si.edu/

We have planned this field trip – I don’t know if you would also want to head here, but it is a good follow up and conclusion to a Science block. We are going the last Monday in January. Also, since you are ending the month on the constellations it might be a good time for stargazing (do you have a local planetarium) or a family camping trip the final weekend in January, depending on the weather. ;-)

Let me know if you have any questions. My notes are for myself so they may be a little hard to follow. For the seasonal paintings I would recommend beginning with Winter (1 - it is the season we are in and 2 - it is only one color, blue on the white paper) and then Spring (blue + yellow), Summer (yellow + red), and Autumn (yellow + red but evoking a different mood, more challenging).

Take care,
Rhoda