

A Whole Weekend of Apples

(Story words: month, change, recipe, sugar)

Linda's friends know that October is her favorite month of the year.

"The trees are so beautiful when they turn color, the air is so crisp and fresh, how can anyone not love October?" she will say.

Every year she invites her friends to spend a "weekend of apples" with her. On day one, the group drives to a farm to go apple picking. They spend a fun day with ladders, bags, and wheelbarrows picking a whole lot of apples.

Linda always prepares a casserole before the weekend starts. Then, on Friday, she buys salad stuff to go with it. She knows they will be tired after a long day of apple picking and exploring a farm.

In the morning, the friends discuss their plans for the apples. They always make jars of apple butter to take home and to give to coworkers and friends. Apple butter,

despite its name, does not contain butter, but is more like jam. A lot of time in the morning is spent peeling and chopping the apples.

When the apple butter is done, they have fun discussing what baked goods they will make. They find lots of recipes on the internet to consider.

Linda often wants to make an apple crumble, because she likes the no-fuss way it comes together. She likes sweet toppings that are made with oats and brown sugar. She also likes apple cobblers because they are also uncomplicated to make with a topping that is a little less sweet.

Debra likes cakes, so she often picks a recipe for a loaf, cake, or muffins. Her friends at work like her baked goods, so she likes to make mini-loafs or muffins that are simple to wrap and distribute. She even makes some of them gluten-free for folks at work who cannot tolerate wheat flour.

Rona likes to make apple dumplings. She is not fond of sweet things, but her grandma used to make apple dumplings. She likes to take dumplings to her mom and dad who love them.

The thing that Linda likes better than eating apple treats is spending the weekend with her friends during her favorite time of year.