Teacher's Guide





Genre: Juvenile Nonfiction / Science & Nature / Poetry

Interest Level:

Ages 4-8 Grades PreK-3

Guided Reading: K

Lexile™: AD460L

Themes: Science & Nature, Trees & Forests, Earth Sciences, Environments & Habitats, Environmental Conservation, Animal Science, Seasons

Be Thankful for Trees:

A Tribute to the Many Surprising Ways Trees Relate to Our Lives

By HARRIET ZIEFERT Illustrated by BRIAN FITZGERALD. Published by Red Comet Press, 2022

Teacher's Guide by JUDY FREEMAN www.judyreadsbooks.com / judyfreemansworkshops@gmail.com

In this lyrical, rhyming salute to trees, veteran children's book author, Harriet Ziefert, inspires readers to pay closer attention to and appreciate all the trees around us. In this teacher's guide you'll find a healthy batch of across-the-curriculum ideas, activities, projects, crafts, songs, and videos, all about trees. Pick and choose the ones that best fit the bill for you and your children and inspire everlasting tree-lovers.

PRE-READING

Show your children the book's cover and discuss the title: *Be Thankful for Trees*. Ask them, "Why should we be thankful for trees?" Next, ask them to tell you everything they know about trees. Write or type up a poster of their responses on poster board, white board, or Smart Board.

In introducing each of the seven sections of the book, read its heading and encourage your listeners to join in vigorously on the refrain, "It would not!"





FIRST

A tree is food. Would life be satisfying without trees? It would not!

DISCUSSION

Ask listeners: How is a tree food? What kinds of food comes from trees for people? For animals?

OBSERVATION ACTIVITY

Ask listeners: Look at the illustration of the trees with buckets and spigots on them. What are they for? Have you ever tasted maple syrup? (Bring out a bottle of maple syrup and an eyedropper. Put a drop on each child's finger for tasting. Check with parents first to see if this is OK to do.) What does it taste like? From what kind of trees can we make maple syrup? (Bring in maple leaves to show your group so they recognize them the next time they see a maple tree.)

SCIENCE

MAKE APPLESAUCE (Also check with parents on this one. Kids are not usually allergic to apples, sugar, and cinnamon, but you never know.) Bring in a dozen Macintosh apples, a cutting board and knife, a great big pot with a lid, cinnamon, and a Foley grinder or food mill, and a container for the seeds. Have children wash their hands (soap!) and then wash the apples (no soap!). You cut the apples into quarters (removing the seeds for later) and have children toss them in the pot. Have them measure and pour in 2-4 cups of water. Lightly sprinkle cinnamon over the apples, cover the pot, and then set it on the burner and bring to a simmer. Cook for 20 minutes or until the apples are fork tender and easily separated from their skins. When the pot has cooled down a bit, run the apples through a food mill to remove the skins and seeds. Add sugar to taste (maybe 1/4-1/2 cup) and a bit of cinnamon. Stir, let cool a bit, and serve in little paper cups.

PLANT APPLE SEEDS

With the seeds you've collected from your apples, you'll want to clean them carefully (throwing out any that are broken), wrap them in damp paper towels, and store them in labeled zip-lock bags in the fridge until they sprout. Then plant them and cross your fingers that they'll grow. For the whole process, go here:

www.gardenguides.com/138460-plant-apple-seeds-kids.html

MUSIC

APPLE PICKERS REEL

While you're waiting for the apples to cook, join in on the carefree chorus of "Apple Picker's Reel," sung by Maria Sangiolo from her album, "Maria and Friends: Planting Seeds": https://playtimeplaylist.com/music/maria-sangiolo/maria-and-friends-planting-seeds/apple-pickers-reel/

APPLE PICKERS REEL

Words and music by Larry Hanks, 1966

CHORUS:

Hey, ho, makes you feel so fine Looking out across the orchard in the bright sunshine. Hey, ho, you feel so free Standing in the top of an apple tree

THE TINY LITTLE APPLE SEED

(To the tune of "The Eentsy Weentsy Spider"):

The tiny little apple seed was planted in the ground.

(make a cup of your fingers and pantomime planting a seed with your other hand)

Down came the rain, falling all around;

(wiggle fingers high to low)

Out came the sun, as bright as bright can be,

(raise arms up high to make a big circle)

And the tiny little apple seed became an apple tree!

(stand up straight and hold arms outstretched up high)

ART

What food have you eaten that came from a tree? Draw a picture of that food or of yourself eating that food.

SECOND

A tree is comfort. Would life be good without trees? It would not!

DISCUSSION

Ask listeners: What does it mean to give comfort? In what ways does a tree give comfort? (Or, what can a tree do to make us comfortable?)

LANGUAGE ARTS

AN AESOP FABLE

Do inform your listeners, before you read or tell the story below, that a plane tree bears no relation to any kind of airplane. Find good photos of plane trees here: www.shutterstock.com/search/london+plane+tree



Then read aloud this brief but pithy Aesop's fable, "The Plane Tree."

The Plane Tree

Two Travelers, walking in the noonday sun, sought the shade of a widespreading tree to rest. As they lay looking up among the pleasant leaves, they saw that it was a Plane Tree.

"How useless is the Plane!" said one of them. "It bears no fruit whatsoever, and only serves to litter the ground with leaves."

"Ungrateful creatures!" said a voice from the Plane Tree. "You lie here in my cooling shade, and yet you say I am useless! Thus ungratefully, O Jupiter, do men receive their blessings!"

Our best blessings are often the least appreciated.

Talk about what it means to be useful versus useless, grateful versus ungrateful, and appreciated versus unappreciated. You can find a printable version of this story, adapted from the book *The Aesop for Children: with Pictures by Milo Winter*, published by Rand, McNally & Co in 1919, here: http://www.read.gov/aesop/index.htm

SCIENCE AND MATH

TREE COOKIES

On Amazon are many different types of inexpensive "tree cookies" or "log discs," 3"-5" slices of thin logs, unfinished, with the bark still attached. Discuss how dendrologists, scientists who study woody trees and plants, count the rings in a felled tree, with each ring representing one year in a tree's life. Hand out one tree cookie to each pair of students and have them count its rings and report on the tree's age. Project on a screen a large photograph of a felled tree for further counting of rings. Here's a good one:

www.treehugger.com/tree-rings-reveal-our-past-and-our-future-4863330

Using tree-ring dating to figure out the age of a tree that has been cut down is known as dendrochronology. Your kids will love repeating those two meaty scientific words. Tell them, when they go home tonight and are asked what they did in school today, to say, "We were working on dendrochronology. Just call me a dendrologist!" Tomorrow, ask them what the reaction was.

HOMEWORK

Discuss: What is your favorite piece of furniture in your house? When you go home tonight, examine all the furniture in your house and make a list–your parents or older siblings can help–of all the furniture that is made of wood.



THIRD

A tree is music. Would life be melodious without trees? It would not!

DISCUSSION

Ask listeners: What does melodious mean? How can a tree make music? What instruments are made of wood?

MUSIC

PLAYING WOODEN INSTRUMENTS

This would be a fun lesson for your music teacher to cover, showing children a variety of wooden instruments—guitar, recorder, drumsticks, piano, etc.—and demonstrating how they are played and how they sound.

Make music with instruments made of wood. (Your music teacher might have some you can borrow.) Put on some lively music and have children play along with castanets, small drums, maracas, and even blocks of wood tapped together. If you want your own supply of instruments, look up "wood instruments for kids" to discover a wide array of inexpensive sets of small, easy-to-play wooden percussion instruments for about \$35, all great for "shaking, tapping, beating and blowing," as per the Chriffer Kids Musical Instruments site on Amazon.

MAKING INSTRUMENTS

If you're feeling crafty, you can make your own instruments out of paper products. Try these simple ones in this video from DIY (Do It Yourself) Labs: www.youtube.com/watch?v=7sUNXA4NYKI

SONGS ABOUT TREES

Here's a nifty little video of a well-known cumulative folk song about a tree, "And The Green Grass Grew" from Super Simple Songs. Your listeners will join in singing the backwards cascading verses. According to Wikipedia, the song "... is an Appalachian folk song that was first noted in 1877 in Miss M. H. Mason's book *Nursery Rhymes and Country Songs* but is likely to be much older." www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nktg1Wjs4l4

You will also enjoy this classic audio version of the song, sung by the late great Pete Seeger, accompanying himself on the banjo (made of wood!). He added a couple of extra verses that will get listeners laughing. www.youtube.com/watch?v=cSpa1QUQ-Ec.

A WALTZ ABOUT TREES

Your children have most likely never seen a live orchestra. Revel in this spirited Johann Strauss waltz, "Tales of Vienna Woods," filmed at a concert hall in Austria in 2017. Have children watch how the orchestra works together and identify the different instruments. Which musicians have the biggest jobs? Pick out which instruments are made of wood

(including the lovely zither). Which instruments do you like best and why? Pick an instrument and pantomime playing it along with the orchestra. (Don't forget to look up and show a photo of Johann Strauss II, 1825–1899, with an impressive hairdo and set of mutton chops). www.youtube.com/watch?v=EutYjWqBltU

How do musicians know how to play their parts? Discuss how they read sheet music that tells them what notes to play and when, just like we read the words aloud from a book. Hand out some simple sheet music and demonstrate a scale on the piano, guitar, or instrument of your choice. This might be a good time to teach them the infectious "Do-Re-Mi" song from The Sound of Music. They'll love this video from the movie with the great Julie Andrews. www.youtube.com/watch?v=drnBMAEA3AM



FOURTH

A tree is art. Would life be beautiful without trees? It would not!

DISCUSSION

Ask listeners: What is art? What does a tree have to do with art?

ART

MAKE YOUR OWN PAPER

Children's book author/illustrator, Denise Fleming, makes all of her illustrations out of her own homemade paper pulp. (Look for her books in your library to show.) You and your crew can make pieces of handmade paper out of paper scraps, torn into tiny pieces, soaked in water, blended into new pulp, and spread out onto screens to dry. Here are some useful websites and videos to show you varied ways to approach the process.

 $\underline{www.pbs.org/parents/crafts-and-experiments/make-your-own-paper}$

https://babbledabbledo.com/science-art-design-for-kids-how-to-make-paper/

 $\frac{https://learning-center.homesciencetools.com/article/how-to-make-paper-science-project-for-elementary/$

www.eekwi.org/activities/arts-crafts/make-your-own-paper

MAKE PICTURES OF TREES

If there's a nice tree on school property, take kids outside to draw or paint it. Or have them draw pictures of a favorite tree in their neighborhood, find out what kind of tree it is, and bring the illustrations to school for a show-and-tell session and to display on a bulletin board or wall. If you have access to camera or old mobile phones, they can also take photos of trees to print out. All would make splendid bulletin boards.

What is your favorite type of tree of all the trees in the world? What is your personal connection to that tree? Talk about it. Write about it. Photography it. Draw or paint a portrait of it. Why is it special to you?

DRAW A PINECONE

Bring in a pinecone for children to examine. Watch the video, "How to Draw a Pinecone," from the Art for Kids Hub. In this easy-to-follow and fun drawing lesson, you'll end up with an attractive pinecone hanging from an evergreen branch. www.youtube.com/watch?v=i8FofPqHGkU

SCIENCE

DECIDUOUS VS. EVERGREEN TREES

If you're drawing a pinecone, this would be a good time to talk about the two types of trees: deciduous and evergreen. In discussing evergreens, explain that evergreens stay green all year round, and some of them also grow pinecones. (Ones that do are called conifers, which means conebearer.) Bring in cuttings of different evergreen trees and pinecones to examine. Deciduous trees have broad, flat leaves that they shed each winter. Bring in a variety of deciduous tree leaves, too. Hold up one at a time and have children determine if it's from a deciduous or evergreen tree.

This simple but pretty song, one in a series from BrainySongs, explains the difference between deciduous and evergreen trees. www.youtube.com/watch?v=RJx2xQKIgXU

LEAF PICTURES

Have children make seasonal leaf pictures or leaf stamps by painting a leaf and pressing it onto paper. Or have them make negative leaf paintings by painting over a leaf placed on paper and then removing the leaf. They can draw in the midrib down the middle of the leaf and the veins, or just leave it uncolored.

LANGUAGE ARTS

This verse celebrates art and writing, all made possible thanks to paper made from trees. Have children discuss what picture book, with their favorite stories and illustrations, they are most grateful for. Have each child hold up a favorite book, tell a single sentence about it, and show a favorite picture.



FIFTH

A tree is recreation. Would life be fun without trees? It would not!

DISCUSSION

Ask listeners: What does the word "recreation" mean? How do trees make your life more fun? What do you do for fun? What other sports and activities use equipment made from trees? (These include hockey sticks, bowling pins, golf clubs, and skis.)

ACTIVITIES

STICK-PEELING

Is there anything more Zen than peeling off the bark from sticks? What? You've never done this before? First collect a big bagful of sticks to hand out to your kids. (Test the sticks first to make sure they're peelable. Some have very tough bark.) Have them peel off the bark and examine the beautiful wood beneath. It's a calming activity where they can stop, take a breath, and focus on something so small that they might have overlooked it or taken it for granted.

PICK-UP STICKS

Do you remember playing pick-up sticks when you were a kid? They're still out there, still made of wood, and cost about \$12 if you want to buy a big set for your young'uns to play. They're great for hand-eye coordination and for dealing serenely with small frustrations. Or, if you want to make the game more organic, have them play using all the sticks they just peeled.

ART

KITE-MAKING

For links to instructions for making several simple paper kites for flying and/or display, you'll find an alluring array here, including a bird kite, a newspaper kite, a paper plate kite, and a beautiful stained glass kite (made with colored tissue paper and clear contact paper).

https://everydaychaosandcalm.com/13-kite-crafts-for-preschoolers/

MUSIC

SONGS ABOUT BOATS

Speaking of boats made of wood, sing that old chestnut, "Row Row Row Your Boat." Have your kids pair up, sitting on the floor, facing each other, legs bent, soles of shoes touching their partner's soles, arms outstretched, holding hands. As you sing the song with them, each pair leans back and forth, as if they are the boat being rowed. Great fun!

ROW ROW ROW YOUR BOAT

Row row row your boat Gently down the stream; Merrily, merrily, merrily Life is but a dream.

And then there's this classic which will work with the same activity of pairs of kids "rowing" the boat:

MICHAEL ROW YOUR BOAT ASHORE CHORUS:

Michael, row your boat ashore, hallelujah Michael, row your boat ashore, hallelujah

Sister, help to trim the sail, hallelujah Sister, help to trim the sail, hallelujah

The River Jordan is chilly and cold, hallelujah Chills the body, but not the soul, hallelujah

Jordan River is deep and wide, hallelujah Milk and honey on the other side, hallelujah



SIXTH

A tree is home. Would life be comfy without trees? It would not!

DISCUSSION

Ask listeners: How is a tree a home? What creatures live there? Could you live in a tree?

OBSERVATION ACTIVITY

Go on a nature walk to a nearby park. If you can get some pairs of kidsized binoculars, they can look for nests, birds, squirrels, insects, and other critters on and under trees. Have them dictate a story about what they saw while you script it out and print out copies for them to illustrate.

MUSIC

WHERE ANIMALS LIVE

Here's a charming musical rendition of the rhyming text of Tom David Barna's picture book, *Who Lives in a Tree: A Song About Where Animals Live* (A Capstone Interactive Book; Cantata Learning, 2017), with musical arrangement and produced by Musical Youth Productions.

After a few listenings, your kids can sing along:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wKRtcwie2mk

ART

FAIRY HOUSES

Children can create little abodes for the fairies, hobbits, leprechauns, and other magical creatures that live at the foot of a tree. Make your own fairy houses out of found materials. Send a note home for parents and kids to scour the grounds to collect and bring in natural materials: sticks, twigs, bark (if you have a sycamore tree nearby, check the ground for great bark), leaves, stones, buttons, dried beans, small boxes, cardboard, wood scraps, yarn, twine, cardboard tubes, popsicle sticks, etc. If you look up fairy houses online, you'll see that grownups are quite taken with fairy houses and make elaborate ones. Just a reminder that woodland creatures, both real and imaginary, aren't so fancy and will take a shine to whatever your children create. Be it ever so humble . . .

This website gives a plethora of photos, ideas, and inspiration: https://fairygardendiy.com/fairy-garden-ideas-for-kids/



SEVENTH

A tree is life. Would life be possible without trees? It would not!

DISCUSSION

Discuss: There are five main things a tree needs to grow? What do you think they are? (Water, sunlight, air, soil, nutrients) What are the main things you need to grow?

OBSERVATION ACTIVITIES

WHAT'S MADE OF WOOD?

How can you tell if something is made of wood? Take your students on a tour of your classroom, library, or school. Have them look for and identify any and all objects made from trees/wood/paper. When they go home, have them find something made from a tree, draw a picture of it, and bring it to school. (Or, if the object is small enough, and parents approve, bring the object along with the picture.) Have a show and tell session where they show their pictures and the rest of the group identifies what it is. (If they have brought the actual wood object, they can then hold it up for all to admire.)

SCIENCE

PLANT A TREE

Spring and early fall are good times to plant a tree on school grounds, if you have a place for one. With your students, research the type of tree that would be best for your area. Hold a tree planting ceremony. Name your tree. At your local garden center or nursery, ask which trees would be hardiest. You could buy a small tree or uproot a small interloper growing on your property, such as a maple tree, oak, or pine tree seedling, and replant it at school. Or simply pot the seedling, or

an avocado seed, in your classroom or library. Here are some practical instructions for planting your tree:

https://kidsgardening.org/resources/garden-activities-plant-a-family-tree/https://kidsgardening.org/resources/gardening-basics-plant-a-tree/

PHOTOSYNTHESIS

As Ziefert's text says, "Trees make the earth rich / and keep our air clean." How do trees clean the air? It's time to talk about photosynthesis. The best music video about trees has to be "Photosynthesis" by Two Little Hands TV, featuring a green-suited quartet of boy dancers and a fabulous girl singer, Rachel. As the label states: "Sing and dance and learn about the process of photosynthesis with Rachel and the Treeschoolers!" www.youtube.com/watch?v=xuivYRmIACM

For a more technical explanation of how plants make their own food, sans music, but still awfully well done, try this video, Photosynthesis for Kids, from Clarendon Learning: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Iln136eMl4g

TYPES OF TREES

This site with photos of about 70 different types of trees, will be fun to scroll through to gaze at the pictures and read off the tree names. (There are way too many ads on this site, but the photos and info about each tree are excellent.) https://leafyplace.com/types-of-trees/

Have children do some simple research to find information about either a favorite tree or one they never knew about before. The website, JustFunFacts, includes information on many types of trees, with separate coverage and color photographs of each these eleven: baobab, beech, birch, fir, mangrove, maple, oak, palm, pine, sequoia, spruce. To access each tree, such as, say, the fir tree, type the name of the tree in the search bar and you'll see the article, "Interesting Facts about Fir Trees." Click on it and find a plethora of photos, plus info on how many species there are of the tree, its lifespan, and other interesting facts.

https://justfunfacts.com/

REDWOODS VS. SEQUOIAS

Coastal Redwoods vs. Giant Sequoias, a video produced by Nat Geo Kids. This breezy episode of Nature Boom Time ably explains the difference between the world's two tallest trees, both in California: coastal redwoods (the world's tallest trees) and giant sequoias, which grow inland (the largest in volume). www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hmhb2vmEnvA

MORE TREE FACTS

Trees for Kids, a video produced by Clarendon Learning, will help you review what you already know about the importance of trees and build on it in this informational overview.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=uipjCTg PqQ

IDENTIFY LEAVES

In summer or fall, bring in leaves from different trees for children to identify from pictures in books or online. If you don't already have one, here's a good poster of common North American tree leaves from the United States Forest Service: Smokey Bear's Tree Leaf Poster www.treehugger.com/a-collection-of-smokey-bears-best-nature-posters-4122620

MATH

ORDINAL NUMBERS

Note that the first page of each of the seven sections starts with its ordinal number: FIRST, SECOND, etc. Have children recite the ordinal numbers from one to twenty.

ART

PAINT THE SEASONS

Make a template with a quadrant of four tree trunks and branches; label them Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall; and run off one per person. Each child will need four small spears of fresh broccoli to use as paintbrushes, one for each color of paint. The young artists will dab the tree branches with white paint for the seasonal snow of winter, light green for spring leaves, darker green for summer, and either orange, red, or yellow paint for fall. No big cleanup needed—just toss out the broccoli when finished. Sing the songs below to go with your finished pictures.

MUSIC

PARTS OF A TREE

The four main parts of a tree are the roots, the trunk, the branches, and the leaves. From "Mr. R.'s Songs for Teaching" comes a song Mr. R. wrote for his early elementary science classes: "Head Shoulders Knees and Toes for Trees!" This jaunty tune, sung by a kid's chorus, reinforces the parts of trees (to the tune of "Heads, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes"):

www.youtube.com/watch?v=FJqy967xs1c

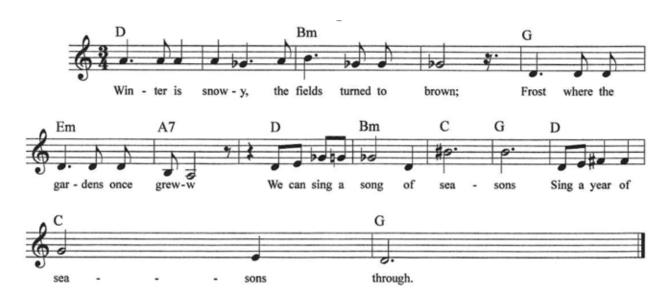
Here's the chorus:

Roots, trunks, branches, leaves Roots, trunks, branches, leaves Buds and leaves and flowers in the breeze Roots, trunks, branches, leaves.

AND, FINALLY

Review the seasons with this sweet song. Discuss: How do trees change in each season?

A SONG OF SEASONS (Words and music by Judy Freeman, ©2004)



Winter is snowy, the fields turned to brown, Frost where the gardens once grew; We can sing a song of seasons, sing a year of seasons through.

Spring is new petals in pinks and pastels, Leaves on the trees green and new; We can sing a song of seasons, sing a year of seasons through.

Summer is oceans of aquamarine, Flowers bloom in startling hue; We can sing a song of seasons, sing a year of seasons through.

Autumn is golden with red trees ablaze, Pumpkins and apples and stew; We can sing a song of seasons, sing a year of seasons through.

Red and indigo, yellow and green,
Orange and violet and blue;
All the colors of the rainbow
Make colors of the seasons, too;
We can sing a song of seasons, sing a year of seasons through.
We can sing a song of seasons, sing a year of seasons through.

OTHER BUOYANT READ-ALOUDS ABOUT TREES

Apples to Oregon: Being the (Slightly) True Narrative of How a Brave Pioneer Father Brought Apples, Peaches, Pears, Plums, Grapes, and Cherries (and Children) Across the Plains by Deborah Hopkinson, illustrated by Nancy Carpenter. Atheneum, 2004. Delicious, oldest of Pa's eight children, tells a rollicking tall tale of her family's 18th Century cross-country trek from Iowa to Oregon with a wagonful of fruit saplings.

Applesauce Season by Eden Ross Lipson, illustrated by Mordicai Gerstein. Roaring Brook Press, 2009.

A young boy describes his family's yearly tradition of making applesauce after the end of summer vacation.

Be a Friend to Trees by Patricia Lauber, illustrated by Holly Keller. HarperCollins, 1994. This nonfiction picture book in the easy-to-read Let's-Read-And-Find-Out Science series gives an excellent overview of tree facts

Bear Goes Sugaring by Maxwell Eaton. Holiday House/Neal Porter Books, 2019. Bear takes us through the steps of sugaring from tapping the trees to making syrup.

Because of an Acorn by Lola M. Schaefer, illustrated by Frann Preston-Gannon. Chronicle Books, 2016.

"Because of an acorn, a tree." The simplest of texts leads us through the cause-and-effect of the impact a simple acorn can have.

The Great Kapok Tree: A Tale of the Amazon Rain Forest by Lynne Cherry. Harcourt, 1990. The animals of the rain forest plead with a woodcutter to spare their tree.

How To Make An Apple Pie and See the World by Marjorie Priceman. Knopf, 1994. Follow a globe-trotting girl as she gathers her pie ingredients from Italy (wheat), France (eggs), Sri Lanka (cinnamon), England (butter), Jamaica (sugar), and Vermont (apples).

Leaf Man by Lois Ehlert. Harcourt, 2005.

Heading east, the wind blowing him past fields of pumpkins and potatoes, is the Leaf Man, comprised of a collage of brilliantly-colored fall leaves.

A Log's Life by Wendy Pfeffer, illustrated by Robin Brickman. Simon & Schuster, 1997. How an old oak, felled in a storm, continues to be an ecosystem for animals and insects even as it decomposes.

Maple by Lori Nichols. Penguin/Nancy Paulsen Books, 2014.

As a young girl named Maple grows, so does her beloved maple tree, planted by her parents before she was born.

No Monkeys, No Chocolate by Melissa Stewart, illustrated by Nicole Wong. Charlesbridge, 2018.

In a surprising nonfiction picture book about interdependence in the plant and animal world, trace back the chocolate desserts served at a children's birthday party to the cocoa tree grown in the Central and South American rain forests.

Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf by Lois Ehlert. Harcourt Brace, 1991.

An unseen child narrator lauds the life and loveliness of a favorite sugar maple tree.

Redwoods by Jason Chin. Roaring Brook, 2009

While a dark-haired young Asian-American boy is reading a fact-filled book about redwood trees, everything in the book appears to come to life around him.

Seed by Seed: The Legend and Legacy of John "Appleseed" Chapman by Esmé Raji Codell, illustrated by Lynne Rae Perkins. Greenwillow, 2012.

Two modern-day children are magically transported into the past, where they follow the life and travels of John Chapman, the man we know as Johnny Appleseed.

Tap The Magic Tree by Christie Matheson. Greenwillow Books, 2016.

As you tap, rub, jiggle, wiggle, shake, and knock on an apple tree, watch it change over the seasons.

Tell Me, Tree: All About Trees for Kids by Gail Gibbons. Little, Brown, 2002.

This inviting informational picture book covers the parts and types of trees, photosynthesis, tree-related crafts, and directions for kids to make their own tree-identification notebooks.

A Tree Is Nice by Janice May Udry. HarperCollins, 1956.

A classic Caldecott Award winner lays out a child-centric appreciation of the merits of trees.

The Tree Lady: The True Story of How One Tree-Loving Woman Changed a City Forever by H. Joseph Hopkins, illustrated by Jill McElmurry. Beach Lane Books, 2013.

A handsome picture book biography of botanist Katherine Olivia Sessions (1857-1940), master gardener and tree hunter, who was dubbed the Mother of Balboa Park in San Diego.

