



## Children's Books About Plants, Trees, and Forests



Looking for resources for the classroom? Here's a list of some of the books available to you. The listing encompasses a variety of those you might refer to, those you might read aloud to your class, or those your students could read on their own. Look for them in public and school libraries for loaning and among new and used books at your local bookstore.

\*\* Denotes books contained in the ONREP Box.

### Trees

**Title:** A Busy Year

**Author:** Leo Lionni

**Publisher:** Knopf, 1992

**Description:** Twin mice admire their favorite tree during each month of the year in a lesson on the seasons.

**Title:** The Beautiful Christmas Tree

**Author:** Charlotte Zolotow

**Publisher:** 1972

**Description:** Mr. Crockett buys an empty brownstone and a little pine tree from the flower shop. He nurtures it through the winter and when spring comes he plants the tree, which becomes a majestic pine as the years pass.

**Title:** The Berenstain Bears and the Spooky Old Tree

**Author:** Stan Berenstain

**Publisher:** Beginner Books, 1978

**Description:** Three terrified little bears explore the inside of a mysterious old tree.

**Title:** The Big Tree \*\*

**Author:** Bruce Hiscock

**Publisher:** Atheneum Books-MacMillan, 1991

**Description:** Hiscock uses a tree in his neighbor's backyard as the focal point for a discussion of a tree's life cycle.

**Title:** Christmas Tree Farm \*\*

**Author:** Jordan Sandra

**Publisher:** 1993

**Description:** Describes the activities that take place on a Christmas tree farm in Rhode Island throughout each season of the year.

**Title:** Crinkleroot's Guide to Knowing the Trees \*\*

**Author:** Jim Arnosky

**Publisher:** Bradbury Press-MacMillan, 1992

**Description:** This book explains the parts of a tree, uses leaves, seeds, and fall colors to differentiate among species, Arnosky then describes the differences between hardwood and softwood forests, emphasizing the advantages of mixed woods to the many creatures that live in it.

**Title:** Discovering Trees

**Author:** Keith Brandt

**Publisher:** Troll Associates, 1982

**Description:** Briefly discusses the growth of trees from seeds, the parts of trees, and the difference between deciduous and evergreen trees.

**Title:** Ellie, the Evergreen \*\*

**Author:** Jean Warren

**Publisher:** Totline Publishers, 1993

**Description:** Ellie the evergreen is sad in the fall when all of the other trees change color, but when winter arrives, she becomes the most beautiful tree in the park.

**Title:** Familiar Friends

**Author:** Rhonda Whittlesey

**Publisher:** Rose Press, 1985

**Title:** The Fir Tree

**Author:** H.C. Andersen

**Publisher:** Harper & Row, 1970

**Description:** Tale of a little fir tree who lived in the beautiful deep forest, but yearned for something grander.

**Title:** The Gift of the Tree \*\*

**Author:** Alvin Tresselt

**Publisher:** Lothrop, Lee and Shepard Books, 1972

**Description:** The role of an oak tree in the cycle of nature is revealed as an ancient tree, even as it dies and returns to the earth, provides nourishment for new life all around it.

**Title:** The Giving Tree \*\*

**Author:** Shel Silverstein

**Publisher:** Harper & Row, 1964

**Description:** This is a tender story, touched with sadness, aglow with consolation. Shel Silverstein offers an affecting interpretation of the gift of giving and a serene acceptance of another's capacity to love in return.

**Title:** The Grandpa Tree

**Author:** Mike Donahue

**Publisher:** Roberts Rinehart Inc., 1988

**Description:** The elementary tale of the life cycle of a tree, from its beginnings as a sapling to its demise on the forest floor, where it decomposes and becomes "a home for rabbits, and food for flowers."

**Title:** The Great Kapok Tree \*\*

**Author:** Lynne Cherry

**Publisher:** Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1990

**Description:** This book is a magnificent view of how the rainforest works together as a complex community.

**Title:** The Heart of the Wood \*\*

**Author:** Marquerite W. Davol

**Publisher:** 1992

**Description:** Bold paintings on bark paper depicting characters from different cultures and a rhythmic verse follow the transformation of a tall tree in the forest into a singing fiddle at a picnic dance, showing that the power of the song still comes from the heart of the wood.

**Title:** Hug a Tree (and other things to do outdoors with young children)

**Author:** Robert E. Rockwell, Elizabeth A. Sherwood & Robert A. Williams

**Publisher:** Gryphon House Inc., 1983

**Description:** This book contains a wealth of activities to do outdoors with young children so that they will learn to appreciate their environment.

**Title:** Johnny Appleseed \*\*

**Author:** Reeve Lindbergh

**Publisher:** Little, Brown & Company, 1990

**Description:** A glorious celebration of John (Johnny Appleseed) Chapman's life through verse and illustration.

**Title:** A Log's Life

**Author:** Wendy Pfeffer

**Publisher:** Simon & Schuster, 1997

**Description:** After an oak tree falls in the forest, it has another life as home to a variety of creatures.

**Title:** Mr. Willowby's Christmas Tree

**Author:** Robert E. Barry

**Publisher:** Buccaneer Books, 1992

**Description:** The rhyming text tells the tale of a Christmas tree too tall for Mr. Willowby's parlor.

**Title:** Mighty Tree \*\*

**Author:** Dick Gackenbach

**Publisher:** Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1992

**Description:** Three seeds grow into three beautiful trees, each of which serves a different function in nature and for people.

**Title:** The Missing Maple Syrup Sap Mystery

**Author:** Gail Gibbons

**Publisher:** Warnbe & Co., 1979

**Description:** A story of how to make maple syrup.

**Title:** Mr. Plum and the Little Green Tree

**Author:** Helen Earle Gilbert

**Publisher:** Stone and Pierce Publishing, 1946

**Title:** Mr. Tamarin's Trees

**Author:** Kathryn Ernst

**Publisher:** Crown Publishing Co., 1976

**Description:** This book is a wonderful tale with an environmental message for children and adults. The value of trees is concisely shown within the context of a story and illustrations.

**Title:** Night Tree

**Author:** Eve Bunting

**Publisher:** Harcourt Brace Jovanovich

**Description:** On a cold Christmas Eve, a family gathers their supplies, piles into a pickup truck, and drives out to Luke's Forest, where they greet their favorite tree like an old friend.

**Title:** Trees (Now I Know Series)

**Author:** Sharon Gordon

**Publisher:** Troll Associates, 1983

**Title:** Old Stump

**Author:** John Hawkinson

**Publisher:** Whitman & Co., 1965

**Description:** A story that helps children learn to appreciate the living creatures in nature.

**Title:** Once There Was a Tree \*\*

**Author:** Natalia Romanova

**Publisher:** Dial Books, 1985

**Description:** An old stump attracts many living creatures.

**Title:** The Peach Tree

**Author:** Norman Pike

**Publisher:** Stemmer House, 1984

**Description:** A peach tree's existence is threatened by an overpopulation of aphids until ladybugs come to the rescue and restore the balance of nature. Pike attempts to demonstrate the interrelation of all living things by focusing on a limited food chain: tree feeds aphids who feed ladybugs.

**Title:** The People Who Hugged Trees \*\*

**Author:** Deborah Lee Rose

**Publisher:** Roberts Rinehart Inc., 1990

**Description:** Based on a classic folk tale from India, this haunting story gives children insight into India's history and culture while teaching them that environmental protection is everyone's concern.

**Title:** Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf

**Author:** Lois Ehlert

**Publisher:** Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1991

**Description:** A simple narrative celebrating a child's pleasure in a sugar maple is extended with excellent notes on the tree's parts as well as lucid instructions for planting and caring for it.

**Title:** The Season of Arnold's Apple Tree

**Author:** Gail Gibbons

**Publisher:** Voyager Books, 1984

**Description:** In a fun book that teaches about the changing seasons, Arnold enjoys the pleasures of his apple tree: its buds and blossoms in the spring, its sheltering boughs in summer, the tasty apples in the fall, and in winter, the bare branches hold strings of popcorn and berries for the birds.

**Title:** The Sheep and the Rowan Tree

**Author:** Julia Butcher

**Publisher:** Holt & Co., 1986

**Description:** A discontented rowan tree learns to appreciate its position more after being visited by a well-traveled bird, who tells it how unsuitable it would be to live anywhere else.

**Title:** Sky Tree \*\*

**Author:** Thomas Locker

**Publisher:** Harper Collins Publishers, 1995

**Description:** This text records the changes in the tree's world just as simply as a child might observe them, and his magnificent paintings crystallize the natural phenomena that embellish the tree on each page.

**Title:** The Story of Johnny Appleseed \*\*

**Author:** Alike

**Publisher:** Prentice-Hall, 1963

**Description:** Retells the story of John Chapman whose devotion to planting apple trees made him a legendary figure in American history.

**Title:** The Sugar Pear Tree

**Author:** Clyde Bulla

**Publisher:** Crowell Publishers, 1961

**Description:** Lonnie wins a pear tree in a school contest but has no place to plant it since his house will soon be moved to make way for a new road. Grandfather, however ignores all warnings to move and one night Lonnie, Mother, and Gramp find themselves put out on the sidewalk with no place to go.

**Title:** Tanya's Big Dream \*\*

**Author:** Linda Glaser

**Publisher:** Maxwell MacMillan International, 1994

**Description:** A short, chapter book about a fourth grader's struggle to complete her ambitious Earth Day project: planting a live in a city park.

**Title:** Tonia the Tree \*\*

**Author:** Sandy Stryker

**Publisher:** Advocacy Press, 1988

**Description:** A great book to share with children hesitant in having to experience change.

**Title:** The Tree

**Author:** Pascale de Bourgoing

**Publisher:** Scholastic First Discovery Books, 1992

**Description:** In the latest addition to a nonfiction series for the curious preschooler, readers can witness each stage of the growth of a tree and then watch it change with the seasons.

**Title:** A Tree in the Forest

**Author:** Jan Thornhill

**Publisher:** Simon & Schuster, 1991

**Description:** The text chronicles the two-hundred-year life of a maple tree from its beginnings as a seed to its vital role as a decaying log.

**Title:** The Tree in the Ancient Forest \*\*

**Author:** Carol Reed-Jones

**Publisher:** Dawn Publications, 1995

**Description:** A 300 year-old fir tree is the main character in a forest drama depicting the cycle of interdependence between plants and animals.

**Title:** Tree in the Trail \*\*

**Author:** Holling C. Holling

**Publisher:** Houghton Mifflin Co., 1979

**Description:** The story of a cottonwood tree that watched the pageant of history on the Santa Fe Trail where it stood, a landmark to travelers and a peace-medicine tree to Indians, for over 200 years.

**Title:** A Tree is Nice \*\*

**Author:** Janice May Udry

**Publisher:** Harper & Row, 1956

**Description:** This book teaches kids not only how important a tree is to the world, but also how much fun they can be.

**Title:** Tree of Life: The World of the African Baobab \*\*

**Author:** Barbara Bash

**Publisher:** Little, Brown, and Co. Inc., 1989

**Description:** Text and pictures document the life cycle of this amazing tree of the African savannah, and portrays the animals and people it helps to support.

**Title:** A Tree on Your Street

**Author:** Seymour Simon

**Publisher:** Holiday House Inc., 1973

**Description:** Shows you how to find out about a tree on your street by working the way a scientist does.

**Title:** The Tree That Would Not Die \*\*

**Author:** Ellen Levine

**Publisher:** Scholastic Inc., 1995

**Description:** The story of a five hundred year old Treaty Oak in Austin, Texas, is told from the tree's point of view, covers the nation's history that took place during the tree's lifetime, and describes the malicious 1989 poisoning that nearly destroyed it.

**Title:** A Tree With a Thousand Uses

**Author:** Aileen Fischer

**Publisher:** AAA, 1978

**Title:** Trees to Know in Oregon

**Author:** Edward C. Jensen & Charles R. Ross

**Publisher:** Oregon State University - College of Forestry

**Description:** A good reference about the trees that grow in the state of Oregon. It covers all the native conifers and deciduous trees that grow in Oregon.

**Title:** The Tremendous Tree Book \*\*

**Author:** May Garelick & Barbara Brenner

**Publisher:** Four Winds Press, 1979

**Description:** This book takes complex material about trees and pares it down to basic facts that children can understand and enjoy.

**Title:** Under the Early Morning Trees

**Author:** Arnold Adoff

**Publisher:** E.P. Dutton, 1978

**Description:** Nature poems in free verse with illustrations.

**Title:** The View From the Oak

**Author:** Judith and Herbert Kohl

**Publisher:** Sierra Club Books, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1977

**Description:** A book about the way perception affects the world, especially in regards to humans and other animals.

**Title:** Who Lives in This Log?

**Author:** Wilda S. Ross

**Publisher:** Coward, McCann & Geoghegan Inc., 1971

**Title:** Zora Hurston and the Chinaberry Tree

**Author:** William Miller

**Publisher:** Lee & Low Books, 1994

**Description:** Dreaming of living in the cities that she sees from the top of the chinaberry tree, young Zora learns about reaching for her dreams and listens to the stories of her fellow townspeople, from whom she obtains the secret of keeping the past alive.

## **Forests**

**Title:** Ancient Ones: The World of the Old-Growth Douglas Fir \*\*

**Author:** Barbara Bash

**Publisher:** 1994

**Description:** Bash portrays an old-growth forest in the Pacific Northwest from a human perspective on the ground and gazing into its heights, then focuses on the species-rich habitats of canopy, snags, the forest floor, and a nearby stream.

**Title:** Be a Friend to Trees

**Author:** Patricia Lauber

**Publisher:** Harper Collins Publishers

**Description:** This book shows that trees are something that we can't live without. It talks about trees as home and food for various animals, as providers of fruits and nuts for humans, as sources of wood and paper, and as conserves of soil.

**Title:** Blaze and the Forest Fire

**Author:** C.W. Anderson

**Publisher:** Maxwell MacMillan International, 1992

**Description:** Blaze and the Forest Fire is part of the classic Billy and Blaze series that captures the warmth and special understanding between a boy and his horse.

**Title:** California Blue

**Author:** David Klass

**Publisher:** Point, 1996

**Description:** John Rodgers lives in a northern California logging town, but the redwoods he runs through mean more to him than a livelihood. This book explores the human cost of environmental action suggests that there are alternatives to the simplistic "butterfly vs. logging jobs" model.

**Title:** Farewell to Shady Glade

**Author:** Bill Peet

**Publisher:** Houghton Mifflin Company, 1966

**Description:** Bulldozers push the raccoon and his friends from their home, but they are able to find a new one after a terrifying train ride.

**Title:** The First Forest \*\*

**Author:** John Gile

**Publisher:** Worzalla, 1989

**Description:** This tale tells what happens when greed enters the very first, perfect forest and spoils the trees' beauty and peace.

**Title:** The Floratorium

**Author:** Jeanne Oppenheim

**Publisher:** 1994

**Description:** Youngsters visit tropical rain forests, rolling prairies, flowering deserts, and the Arctic tundra and return with an understanding of life in those habitats.

**Title:** How the Forest Grew

**Author:** William Jaspersohn

**Publisher:** Green Willow Books, 1980

**Description:** Describes the gradual transformation of a cleared farm field into a dense forest.

**Title:** The Man Who Planted Trees

**Author:** Jean Giono

**Publisher:** Chelsea Green Publishing Co., 1985

**Description:** A compelling story of a simple man who eases his grief over the loss of his family by planting enough acorns to create a forest in a barren area of France.

**Title:** Merle the High Flying Squirrel

**Author:** Bill Peet

**Publisher:** Houghton Mifflin, 1974

**Description:** Unhappy about the noise and clutter of the city, a squirrel travels west to find peace and quiet in the forest of giant trees he has heard about.

**Title:** One Day in the Tropical Rain Forest \*\*

**Author:** Jean Craighead George

**Publisher:** Harper Trophy, 1990

**Description:** When an impending plot threatens his rainforest home, a Venezuelan Indian boy desperately hopes to stop the imminent destruction and enlists the help of a visiting scientist.

**Title:** Our Friend the Forest

**Author:** Patricia Lauber

**Publisher:** Doubleday & Co. Inc., 1959

**Title:** Pharmacy in the Forest \*\*

**Author:** Fred Powledge

**Publisher:** Atheneum Books, 1998

**Description:** This book discusses the many medicines that have come from forest and stresses the need for conservation in order to preserve potential cures as yet unknown to the medical community.

**Title:** Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening

**Author:** Robert Frost

**Publisher:** Dutton, 1978

**Description:** The poem leaves readers wondering, "Where was the man going on the darkest night of the year?" and "Why on earth did he stop by the woods in a snowstorm?"



**Title:** Tongass: The Last American Rainforest

**Author:** Shelly Gill

**Publisher:** Paws IV Publishers, 1997

**Description:** Explore part of North America's rainforest, the setting for this story about Lily, a Tlingit Indian girl who searches with her aunt for a special spruce tree.

**Title:** When the Monkeys Came Back

**Author:** Kristine L. Franklin

**Publisher:** Atheneum Books – MacMillan, 1994

**Description:** Years after the jungle in her Costa Rica valley is cut down, Don ala Marta persuades her husband to give her a piece of land on which she plants trees that she and descendants care for until they grow into a forest and the monkeys that had once lived there return.

**Title:** Where the Forest Meets the Sea \*\*

**Author:** Jeannie Baker

**Publisher:** Greenwillow Books, 1987

**Description:** Lifelike collage illustrations capture an extraordinary visual journey through a tropical rain forest in North Queensland, Australia, following a young boy as he wonders about the survival of his primeval wilderness that is now threatened by civilization.

**Title:** Whisper From the Woods \*\*

**Author:** Victoria Wirth

**Publisher:** Green Tiger Press, 1991

**Description:** A gentle story about the relationship between a wise old tree and the young seedlings in the forest.

**Title:** The Woodland Steward

**Author:** James R. Fazio

**Publisher:** The Woodland Press, 1985

**Description:** A practical guide to the management of small private forests. Includes legal forms, checklists, and contact information.

## **Plants**

**Title:** From Flower to Fruit

**Author:** Anne Ophelia Downden

**Publisher:** Thomas Y. Crowell Company, 1984

**Description:** A new edition of the critically praised 1984 book once again offers young readers a thoughtful, illustrated examination of the reproductive cycle of various flowering plants, tracing all steps in the process.

**Title:** The Fall of Freddie the Leaf \*\*

**Author:** Leo Buscaglia

**Publisher:** Henry Holt & Company, 2002

**Description:** As Freddie experiences the changing seasons along with his companion leaves, he learns that death is a part of life.

**Title:** How Leaves Change \*\*

**Author:** Sylvia A. Johnson

**Publisher:** Lerner Publications Company, 1986

**Description:** Describes the structure and purpose of leaves, the ways in which they change as part of the natural cycle of the seasons, and the process that creates their autumn colors.

**Title:** How a Seed Grows

**Author:** Helen J. Jordan

**Publisher:** Thomas Crowell Co., 1975

**Description:** Jordan explains how a seed gets water, nutrients, and sunlight, while Krupinski's detailed pictures dramatize how a little seed may become a flower, a vegetable, or even a huge oak tree.

**Title:** The Nature and Science of Leaves

**Author:** Jane Burton, 1997

**Publisher:** Gareth Stevens, 1997

**Description:** Discusses different kinds of leaves, the forms and colors they may have, and their functions.

**Title:** Plants That Never Bloom

**Author:** Ruth Heller

**Publisher:** Grosset & Dunlap, 1984

**Description:** Rich, colorful illustrations, and informative, rhyming verse unlock a world where mushrooms glow at night and seaweed grows to be gigantic.

**Title:** A Tree is a Plant

**Author:** Clyde Robert Bulla

**Publisher:** Harper Trophy (reprint), 2001

**Description:** From the Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Science series this book on the science of trees is designed for preschool and early-primary-grade children. The book follows an apple plant from seed to sprout tree, including the development of blossoms, leaves, and fruit.

## **Environment**

**Title:** Just a Dream \*\*

**Author:** Chris Van Allsbury

**Publisher:** Houghton Mifflin Co., 1990

**Description:** Young Walter litters and refuses to sort trash for recycling, until he dreams of an overcrowded and polluted future which terrifies him into taking care of the Earth.

**Title:** The Lorax \*\*

**Author:** Dr. Seuss

**Publisher:** Random House, 1971

**Description:** An exposition of the ecology crisis done the "Seuss" way.

**Title:** A Sand County Almanac \*\*

**Author:** Aldo Leopold

**Publisher:** Ballantine Books, 1990

**Description:** Elaborates on Leopold's view that it is something of a human duty to preserve as much wild land as possible, as a kind of bank for the biological future of all species.

**Title:** Seasons (First Start Science Series)

**Author:** Peggy Gaven

**Publisher:** Troll Publishers, 1994

**Title:** The Seed the Squirrel Dropped

**Author:** Haris Petie

**Publisher:** Prentice-Hall, 1976

**Description:** From the seed of a cherry comes a new tree that is cared for by a little boy until he is finally able to pick the cherries to make a pie.

**Title:** Seeds Pop-Stick-Glide

**Author:** Patricia Lauber

**Publisher:** Crown Publishers Inc., 1981

**Description:** Text and photographs describe the many different ways that seeds travel and disperse.

**Title:** Signs Along the River

**Author:** Kayo Robertson

**Publisher:** Rinehart Publishers, 1986

**Title:** Sign of the Beaver

**Author:** Elizabeth G. Speare

**Publisher:** Houghton Mifflin Publishers, 1983

**Description:** When his father returns East to collect the rest of the family, 13-year-old Matt is left alone to guard his family's newly built homestead.

**Title:** The Squirrel's Tree Party

**Author:** Ida DeLarge

**Publisher:** Garrard Publishers, 1978

**Description:** When it rains, the squirrels decide to bake a cake & have a sunny day party.

**Title:** Thunder Cake \*\*

**Author:** Patricia Polacco

**Publisher:** Paper Star, 1997

**Description:** Grandma consoles her frightened granddaughter by telling her that the dark clouds of the impending storm are nothing more than the ingredients for a Thunder Cake.

**Title:** The Way to Start a Day

**Author:** Byrd Baylor

**Publisher:** Aladdin Books-MacMillan, 1982

**Description:** This book for children shows how so many different peoples and cultures (from American Indians to African tribes to ancient Egyptians) have greeted the rising Sun with song and praise.

**Title:** Welcome to the Green House

**Author:** Jane Yolen

**Publisher:** G.P. Putnam, 1993

**Description:** Welcome to the green house where, day and night, the melodic prattle of exotic animals fills the air.

**Title:** Your Own Best Secret Place

**Author:** Byrd Baylor & Peter Parnall

**Publisher:** Charles Schribner's Sons - MacMillan, 1979

**Description:** A gentle exploration of how a particular place can have special meaning.

Meditation apps are on the rise, as more users turn to their phones to find their zen. The Chronicle has featured three meditation apps as Startups of the Week in recent months: Calm, Simple Habit and Headspace. The companies attracted attention for different reasons, including new partnerships, funding and acquisitions, but all have seen their use and popularity rise. Calm and Headspace each ranked among the top 10 fitness and health apps available on Apple and Google's smartphone app stores this year, according to