



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.