

Outstanding Children's Literature about Trees

Top Choices for Arbor Day with notes from <https://www.goodreads.com> which offers reviews and sometimes readings of many books.

The Grandpa Tree by Mike Donahue with illustrations by Susan Dorsey. Roberts Rinehart, Inc. Publishers, 1988.

An elementary tale of the life cycle of a tree is also a life lesson for people. Ages 3 and up

The Great Kapok Tree: A Tale of the Amazon Rain Forest by Lynne Cherry. Dedicated to the memory of Chico Mendes, who gave his life in order to preserve a part of the rain forest. A Gulliver Green Book, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich Publishers, 1990.

The author and artist Lynne Cherry journeyed deep into the rain forests of Brazil to write and illustrate her gorgeous picture book *The Great Kapok Tree: A Tale of the Amazon Rain Forest* (1990). One day, a man exhausts himself trying to chop down a giant kapok tree. While he sleeps, the forest's residents, including a child from the Yanomamo tribe, whisper in his ear about the importance of trees and how "all living things depend on one another" . . . and it works. Cherry's lovingly rendered colored pencil and watercolor drawings of all the "wondrous and rare animals" evoke the lush rain forests, as well as stunning world maps bordered by tree porcupines, emerald tree boas, and dozens more fascinating creatures.

How the Forest Grew by William Jaspersohn and illustrated by Chuck Eckart. Scholastic, Inc., 1980.

This book could be about any forest because most forests grow the same way. First, the land is open and green. Then, the changes begin.

"Careful explanation, an elegant, reverent style, and beautiful illustrations highlight this chronology of a forest's growth." -- Booklist.

The Lorax by Dr. Seuss. By Theodor S. Geisel and Audrey S. Geisel. Random House, 1971.

"UNLESS someone like you...cares a whole awful lot...nothing is going to get better...It's not." Long before saving the earth became a global concern, Dr. Seuss, speaking through his character the Lorax, warned against mindless progress and the danger it posed to the earth's natural beauty.

***Seeds of Change: Planting a Path to Peace* about Wangari Maathai, Nobel Peace Prize recipient in 2004** by Jen Cullerton Johnson and illustrated by Sonia Lynn Sadler. Lee & Low Books, New York, 2010.

A picture book biography of scientist Wangari Maathai, the first African woman and first environmentalist to win a Nobel Peace Prize (in 2004), for her work planting trees in her native Kenya

A Tree is Growing by Arthur Dorros, illustrated by S.D. Schindler. Scholastic Inc., 1997.

Tells about the structure of trees and how they grow, as well as their uses.

The Tree Lady about Kate Sessions who planted trees in San Diego's Balboa Park, by Joseph Hopkins, illustrated by Jill McElmurry. Beach Lane Books, 2013.

Unearth the true story of green-thumbed pioneer and activist Kate Sessions, who helped San Diego grow from a dry desert town into a lush, leafy city known for its gorgeous parks and gardens. Katherine Olivia Sessions never thought she'd live in a place without trees. After all, Kate grew up among the towering pines and redwoods of Northern California. But after becoming the first woman to graduate from the University of California with a degree in science, she took a job as a teacher far south in the dry desert town of San Diego. Where there were almost no trees.

Kate decided that San Diego needed trees more than anything else. So this trailblazing young woman singlehandedly started a massive movement that transformed the town into the green, garden-filled oasis it is today. Now, more than 100 years after Kate first arrived in San Diego, her gorgeous gardens and parks can be found all over the city.

Part fascinating biography, part inspirational story, this moving picture book about following your dreams, using your talents, and staying strong in the face of adversity is sure to resonate with readers young and old.