

Are Trees Alive?

A RIF GUIDE FOR FAMILIES

Themes: Environmentalism, Family, Nature

Grade Level: Kindergarten to 3rd grade

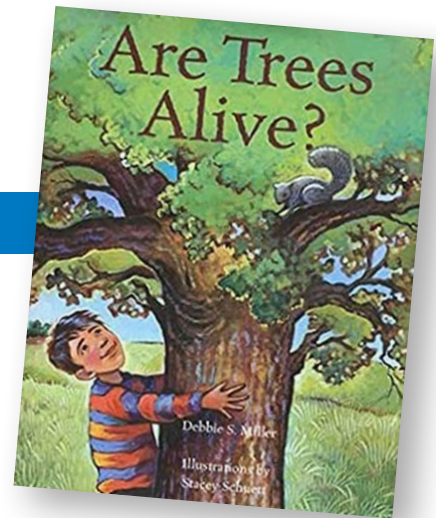
Book Brief: One day, Casey and her mother were walking through the forest. Casey asked, “Are trees alive?” Read this book to find out the journey of a mother and her daughter learning about nature together.

Author:

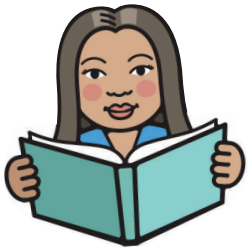
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Illustrator:

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TIME TO READ!



Before reading, build background: Model how to connect to the story by sharing about a time a family member taught you something you were curious about.

While reading, make connections: Throughout the story, the author teaches the readers about many important characteristics of trees. Pause every couple of pages and ask your child how trees are like people. Encourage your child to give specific examples from the story’s pictures and words.

After reading, ask questions:

- In what ways are trees like people?
- What characteristics about a tree keep it alive?
- What are some ways people can help protect trees?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

MAKE A WIND CATCHER

Materials: natural objects (e.g., leaves, rocks), any string material (e.g., twine, shoelaces)

Gather two sticks and any other assortment of objects from nature. Cut four pieces of string. With one piece of string, tie the two sticks you gathered to form the letter X. With the remaining pieces of string, tie the different natural objects you collected to the sticks so they hang below. Hang the wind catcher on a tree branch and observe. Discuss with your child the similarities and differences between the behaviors of each object in the wind.



LEAF RUBBINGS

Materials: leaves, paper, crayons/oil pastels

With your child, go outside and collect leaves of various shapes and sizes. Choose one leaf to start and place it with its bottom side facing up. You will be able to feel the lines on the leaf’s backside. Take one piece of paper and place it on top of the leaf. Take a crayon and rub the side of it gently on the area over the leaf. Continue this process until you have colored the entire leaf. Repeat these steps with as many leaves as you’d like!



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



OTHER BOOKS BY THIS AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR

- [Survival at 120 Above \(2012\)](#)
- [Hanukkah in Alaska \(2013\)](#)
- [A Tree is a Plant \(2001\)](#)