

Arbor Day/Trees Theme Day

Here are some nonfiction/learning titles about trees:

A Tree is a Plant, by Clyde Robert Bulla and illustrated by Stacey Schuett, HarperCollins Publishers, 2001—This is a great review of the growth of a tree looking at an apple tree for younger children.

Be a Friend to Trees, by Patricia Lauber and illustrated by Holly Keller, HarperCollins Publishers, 1994 – Part of the Let's-Read-And-Find-Out-Science Series, this book is a good introduction to the importance of trees in our world.

Celebritrees: Historic and Famous Trees of the World, by Margi Preus and illustrated by Rebecca Gibbon, Henry Holt and Company, 2010—This is a unique non-fiction book since it looks at famous trees making it a fun and different read for this Theme Day.

The Life Cycle of a Tree, by Bobby Kalman & Kathryn Smithyman, Crabtree Publishing, 2002—This is a thorough exploration of the life cycle of a tree.

Redwoods, by Jason Chin, A Neal Porter Book, 2009—I loved how the illustrations in this book tell the story of a boy who finds the book and how he can imagine he is in a redwood forest simply by reading it but the text is non-fiction teaching all about the mighty redwood trees.

Tell Me, Tree: All About Trees for Kids, by Gail Gibbons, Scholastic Inc., 2002 – This is a thorough little book with lots of illustrations to teach young scholars about trees.

Trees, by Christine Petersen, Cherry Lake Publishing, 2009 – This is a simple book that explains just enough for young arboriculturists to learn about trees and offers photographs.

Trees, text by Maria Angeles Julivert, Enchanted Lion Books, 2006—This is a thorough non-fiction book for older kids with just enough info and illustrations but not too much to make it unapproachable.

Wangari's Trees of Peace: A True Story from Africa, by Jeanette Winter, Harcourt, Inc., 2008—This is a picture book but it is about a true woman, Wangari Maathai who started the Green Belt Movement in Kenya in 1977 and won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004. It is a wonderful tale to share with your children about bravery and about the importance of trees.

Who Will Plant a Tree?, written by Jerry Pallotta and illustrated by Tom Leonard, Sleeping Bear Press, 2010—This is a picture book but it teaches how different animals actually help to plant trees so I am putting it under non-fiction.

Here are some picture books about trees that we recommend:

Arbor Day Square, by Kathryn O. Galbraith and illustrated by Cyd Moore, Peachtree, Publishers, 2010—A little Prairie town plants trees every year.

A Tree is Just a Tree? by Brenda Silsbe and illustrated by Yayo, Lobster Press, 2001 – This sweet little book offers a rhyme that questions how we look at trees.

The Inside Tree, by Linda Smith and pictures by David Parkins, harper Collins Publishing, 2010—This is a humorous story of Mr. Potter who thinks his tree looks lonely all by itself outside.

Leo's Tree, by Debora Pearson and art by Nora Hilb, Annick Press, 2004—This simple book with easy to read text shows Leo as a baby and his father planting him a tree.

Our Apple Tree, by Görel Kristina Näsland and illustrated by Kristina Digman, Roaring Brook press, 2002—Two children share all the joys of their apple tree.

We Planted a Tree, by Diane Muldrow and illustrated by Bob Staake, A Golden Book, 2010 – With bright illustrations this book celebrates trees and shows how all over the world they help in different ways.

Here are two other family favourite books about trees:

The Giving Tree, by Shel Silverstein, Harper Collins Publishers, 1964 – this sweet book is a parable about the gift of giving that always brings a tear to my eye.

The Tree That Survived the Winter, by Mary Fahy and illustrated by Emil Antonucci, Paulist Press, 1989 – I received this lovely book as a gift from my aunt when I graduated from University. It is more of an adult fable, but it is a lovely book with deep meaning.