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A Grand Old Tree



Synopsis

Once there was a grand old tree, whose roots sank deep into the earth and whose arms reached high into the sky. Every spring the grand old tree flowered and bore cherries for the squirrels and birds that made their homes in her leafy branches. And every year, seeds from the tree scattered in the wind, along with many millions of leaves. Mary Newell DePalma creates an emotional tale of life and renewal, of nature's bounty and quiet balance, illustrated with simple images made powerful with vivid colors and moving compositions.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 530 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Arthur A. Levine Books; First Edition edition (September 1, 2005)

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Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 8.5 x 10.8 inches

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 13 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #480,968 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #125 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Forests & Trees](#) #180 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Flowers & Plants](#) #575 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Environment](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

PreSchool-Grade 2 *—* The life cycle of a tree is introduced through deceptively simple text and art. DePalma's short, measured phrases turn facts about a tree's growth, her seasonal changes, and the home she provides to a variety of creatures into an ode to an often-overlooked part of the natural world. The fact that the tree is given a female persona makes her seem that much more alive than if she were an it. Her roots sank deep into the earth, her arms reached high into the sky. The art superbly complements the writing. The use of white space to set off the child-inspired illustration style allows the words to stand out and makes the entire design clear and crisp. The

tree's demise on a winter evening is particularly striking. Perfect for storyhour and for beginning readers, this book will make a grand addition to most collections. —Maura Bresnahan, High Plain Elementary School, Andover, MA Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

PreS-Gr. 1. For many years a tree flourishes. It shelters birds, squirrels, and insects while flowering, bearing fruit, shedding leaves, and providing seeds that grow into many new trees. After the old tree dies, it still provides a home to animals and insects as it slowly decomposes. Meanwhile, its offspring grow and flourish, "home to many creatures, just like the grand old tree." The simple text conveys the tree's life and death in a matter-of-fact way, but with well-chosen words that are poetic in the economy of their expression and the precision of their imagery. On one page, words combine with an illustration to form a concrete poem, with the text forming the shape of the trunk and the ground and the picture representing the tree's crown, the sky, and a bird. Neither sentimental nor unfeeling, this appealing picture book offers an appreciation of the cycle of life through a story that is accessible to young children. Carolyn Phelan Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Beautiful story about the uses and care of a tree. At the end the tree dies which is a part of the cycle of life and the author deals great with this sadder aspect as they show the dead tree is still a home for animals. We love this story!

I ordered this book due to my daughters teacher recommendation. My daughter is 4. Recently my mother (her grandmother) passed away and she was having a hard time understanding it. Her teacher read this book to the class and since then my daughter asks her to read it all the time. I think it helped her to understand "dying" a little better. It's about a tree that gets old and dies but leaves grandkids behind. I paid the regular shipping for this and received it the NEXT day! :) I had no problems with this order at all. Oh and my daughters was so happy when she seen it.

As a psychotherapist I am always looking for books that explain different aspects of life to children. I learned about this book from the parent of a little boy who was great friends with my dad. She used this book to explain my dad's death to her five-year-old. It is a lovely way to learn about the cycle of life, along with its purpose. It is written for a young child, yet can also be used to explain death to an older child. I know I will be using it quite often.

This is a sweet book that gently explains the lifecycle of a tree. I refer to it often as my young child processes the death of one of our kitties.

Wonderful Stuff!

Love reading this book to my grandsons and students.

My daughter enjoyed reading this book

A really lovely book about the life cycle of a tree. Beautiful illustrations. Enjoyed by both 5 yo & adult.

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