



## READING TOGETHER

# The Old Maple Tree

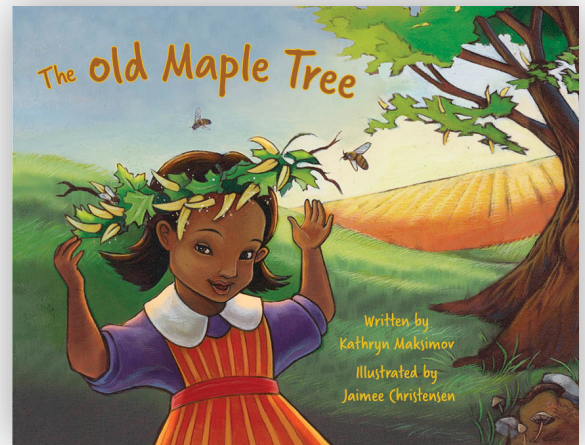
*Use these simple activities to have fun reading together!*

### Act Out the Stages of the Plant Cycle

In *The Old Maple Tree*, the life cycle of a tree is described. Your child has learned that there are four stages of the plant life cycle:

1. **Seed:** The seed stage is the beginning of a plant's growth.
2. **Growth:** The growth stage involves the sprouting of a root into the earth and of a stem above the ground.
3. **Reproduction:** During the reproduction stage, the plant spreads seeds so that new plants can grow.
4. **Death:** In the death stage, the plant dies, often creating food and space for other plants to grow.

One way to help your child remember these four stages is to have them act each stage out. Have fun acting out each stage of the plant cycle with your child. For example, in the seed stage, your child could lay curled up on the ground. In the growth stage, your child could stand up tall with their arms raised high. In the reproduction stage, your child could pretend to toss seeds all around. And in the death stage, your child could return to laying on the ground, and this time you could stand tall in their place to show how the dead plant helps other plants to grow.



### Observe a Local Tree

The maple is one of many types of trees. Do you know what kind of trees exist in your community? Go outside in a safe area with your child. Together, observe the different types of trees around you.

Ask your child to choose a tree they would like to learn more about. Have them record observations about the tree—your child can draw, write, or take pictures or videos.

Together, see what you can learn about the tree your child has observed. A good place to start is this website by the Arbor Day Foundation that helps you identify a tree based on its characteristics:

<https://www.arborday.org/tree-identification>.

### Spend Time in Nature

Scientists have discovered that being outside in nature—for example, at a park, in a garden, or in the mountains—can have a positive impact on our emotions. Go with your child somewhere in nature. As you spend time together, talk to your child about how being in nature makes them feel. To help your child share their emotions, you can encourage them to respond in this way: “I feel \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.”