

Illinois Reads Activity for “A Tree is Nice” Grades K - 2

Author: Janice May Udry

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/26909.Janice_May_Udry

Janice May Udry is an American author. She was born in Jacksonville, Illinois and graduated from Northwestern University in 1950. Her first book, *A Tree is Nice*, was awarded the Caldecott Medal in 1957 for Marc Simont's illustrations. Her papers are held at the University of Southern Mississippi.

Illustrator: Marc Simont https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marc_Simont Marc Simont won the Caldecott Medal in 1957 for *A Tree Is Nice*.

A complete lesson for using this book can be found:

<http://www.greeneducationfoundation.org/institute/lesson-clearinghouse/402-A-Tree-Is-Nice.html>

Information about trees:

Arbor Day Foundation:

Anatomy of a Tree

<http://www.arborday.org/trees/ringstreenatomy.cfm>

The Life of a Tree

<https://www.arborday.org/kids/carly/lifeofatree/>

Kidzone-Trees

<http://www.kidzone.ws/plants/trees.htm>

Great Green Links

<http://www.treetures.com/Websites.htm>

iPad App

Leaf Snap - <http://leafsnap.com/>

This activity would be good to use around Earth Day on April 22nd.

Materials: white paper, crayons, science notebooks, a camera

Shared Reading Activity:

1. We are going to listen to a story called “A Tree is Nice”. The story was written by Janice May Udry a long time ago in 1957. Look at the cover. Do you see this medal on the cover. That symbol represents the Caldecott Medal Award and it is given every year to a book that has the best illustrations. The illustrator of this book was Marc Samont, and he won the Caldecott Medal Award Winner.
2. Give each student a plain sheet of paper. Before we read the story, let’s think about what a tree looks like. Use your crayons to draw a picture of a tree.
3. Let’s look at the cover. What’s happening in the picture? There are two trees on the cover, how are they alike? How are they different? Are they similar to your drawing?
4. The title says “A Tree Is Nice”, how can a tree be nice? Write one way that a tree can be nice by your picture.
5. Let’s read the story and see how the author thought trees were nice.
6. Read the story, stopping periodically to examine the pictures and talk about the information.
7. Discussion Questions:
 - a. Where are trees found?
 - b. How did the people in the book use trees?
 - c. How did animals use trees?
 - d. How are trees useful?

- e. What are some parts of trees that were mentioned in the story?
8. Let's look at our drawings. What parts of a tree did you include in your drawing?
9. We are going to go outside and look at trees. We will select an interesting tree to watch the rest of the year. We will notice how it changes over the next few weeks. We will record information in our science notebooks. We will also take pictures of the tree as well.
10. After returning to the classroom, ask the following questions.
 - a. What did we discover about the tree we observed? Did we notice any parts of the tree that had fallen to the ground?
 - b. How is the tree we observed like your drawing? How is it different?
 - c. Do you think we will see any changes in our tree when we look at it in a week. Write down your predictions.
11. Continue to observe the tree once a week.
12. Bring in a variety of books about trees for students to explore.
13. Collect money and plant a tree on Earth Day.

Tree Bibliography

A Tree for All Seasons by Robin Bernard (1999, National Geographic)
Redwoods by Jason Chin (2009, Scholastic)
Leaf Man by Lois Ehlert (2005, Harcourt)
Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf by Lois Ehlert (1991, Sandpiper: Houghton Mifflin)
My Favorite Tree: Terrific Trees of North America by Diane Iverson (1999, Dawn Publications)
Who Will Plant a Tree by Jerry Pallotta and Illustrated by Tom Leonard (2012, Sleeping Bear Press)
Look What I Did with A Leaf by Morteza E. Sohi (1993, Nature Craft)
The Busy Tree by Jennifer Ward and Illustrated by Lisa Falkenstern (2009, Scholastic)