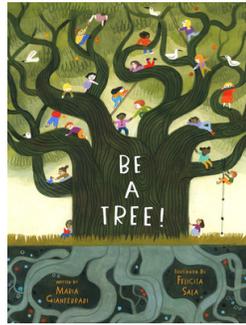


# BE A TREE!: Classroom & Outdoor Activities

## ABOUT THE BOOK

### **Be a Tree!**

By Maria Gianferrari  
Illustrated by Felicita Sala  
ISBN-13: 9781419744228  
Published by ABRAMS  
Age Range: 4 - 12 Years



*Stand tall.  
Stretch your branches to  
the sun.  
Be a tree!*

We are all like trees: our spines, trunks; our skin, bark; our hearts giving us strength and support, like heartwood. We are fueled by air and sun. And, like humans, trees are social. They “talk” to spread information; they share food and resources. They shelter and take care of one another. They are stronger together.

In this gorgeous and poetic celebration of one of nature’s greatest creations, acclaimed author Maria Gianferrari and illustrator Felicita Sala both compare us to the beauty and majesty of trees—and gently share the ways in which trees can inspire us to be better people.

"Gianferrari writes a hymn to attributes shared by humans and trees, guiding readers through lessons to be learned from their arboreal brethren....Gianferrari gives readers a new way to think about their individual and collective existences."

—*Publishers Weekly*, **Starred Review**

## ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES

### **Be a Tree: STEM Talking Points & Lessons**

Award-winning STEM educator Suzanne Costner provides us with talking points and mini-lessons to root our read aloud in STEM. Additionally, she shares her favorite pre-existing lesson plans and online resources on trees. Look for a beautiful tree anatomy identification worksheet with Felicita Sala's art!

DOWNLOAD: <https://www.curiouscitydpw.com/download/30204/>

### **Be a Tree: STEM-Pathy**

The book builds an empathy bond between the reader and trees. Drawing from Maria Gianferrari's back matter, you can connect STEM study to social action with a list of suggested ways to protect trees. Pulling from the evidence that trees communicate with and aid each other, this hand-out also invites your humans to aid each other.

DOWNLOAD: <https://www.curiouscitydpw.com/download/30216/>

### **Be a Tree: Movement & Mindfulness**

The books invites the reader to embody a tree. Yoga often uses the symbolism of trees and being rooted to the earth as the basis for movement and practice. Yoga instructor and middle grade novelist Lori Snyder offers movement and mindfulness prompts to accompany each page. With this guided activity, you can bring movement to your read aloud or carry the book into physical education classes.

DOWNLOAD: <https://www.curiouscitydpw.com/download/30210/>

### **Be a Tree: Art Project**

In many of the illustrations, Felicita Sala shows us the visible parts of the tree—the trunk and branches and the invisible parts of the tree—the roots and fungi. This art activity, co-created with art educator Kelly McConnell, creates a tree out of hand and arm tracings and explorations of what parts of our lives are visible and invisible to others.

DOWNLOAD: <https://www.curiouscitydpw.com/download/30207/>

### **Be a Tree: Outdoor Story Time**

This picture book cries out to be read under a tree. Jennifer Beach, a public librarian and Certified Professional Environmental Educator, offers some ideas to take this Story Time outdoors with movement, song, games, art, and STEM.

DOWNLOAD: <https://www.curiouscitydpw.com/download/30213/>

### **Be a Tree: Event Poster**

DOWNLOAD: <https://www.curiouscitydpw.com/download/30235/>