

Celebrate Arbor Day



Plant A Tree



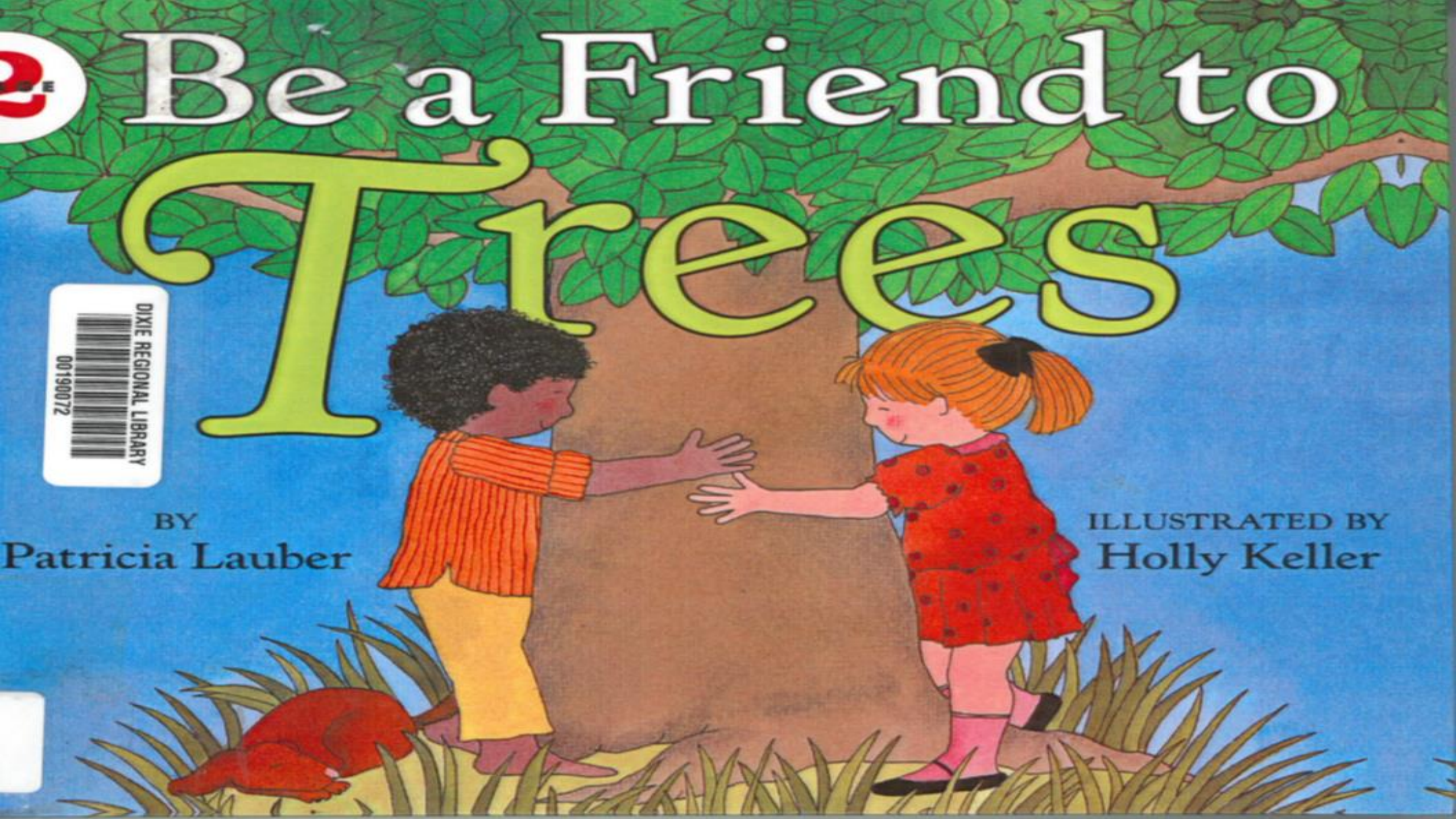
Be a Friend to

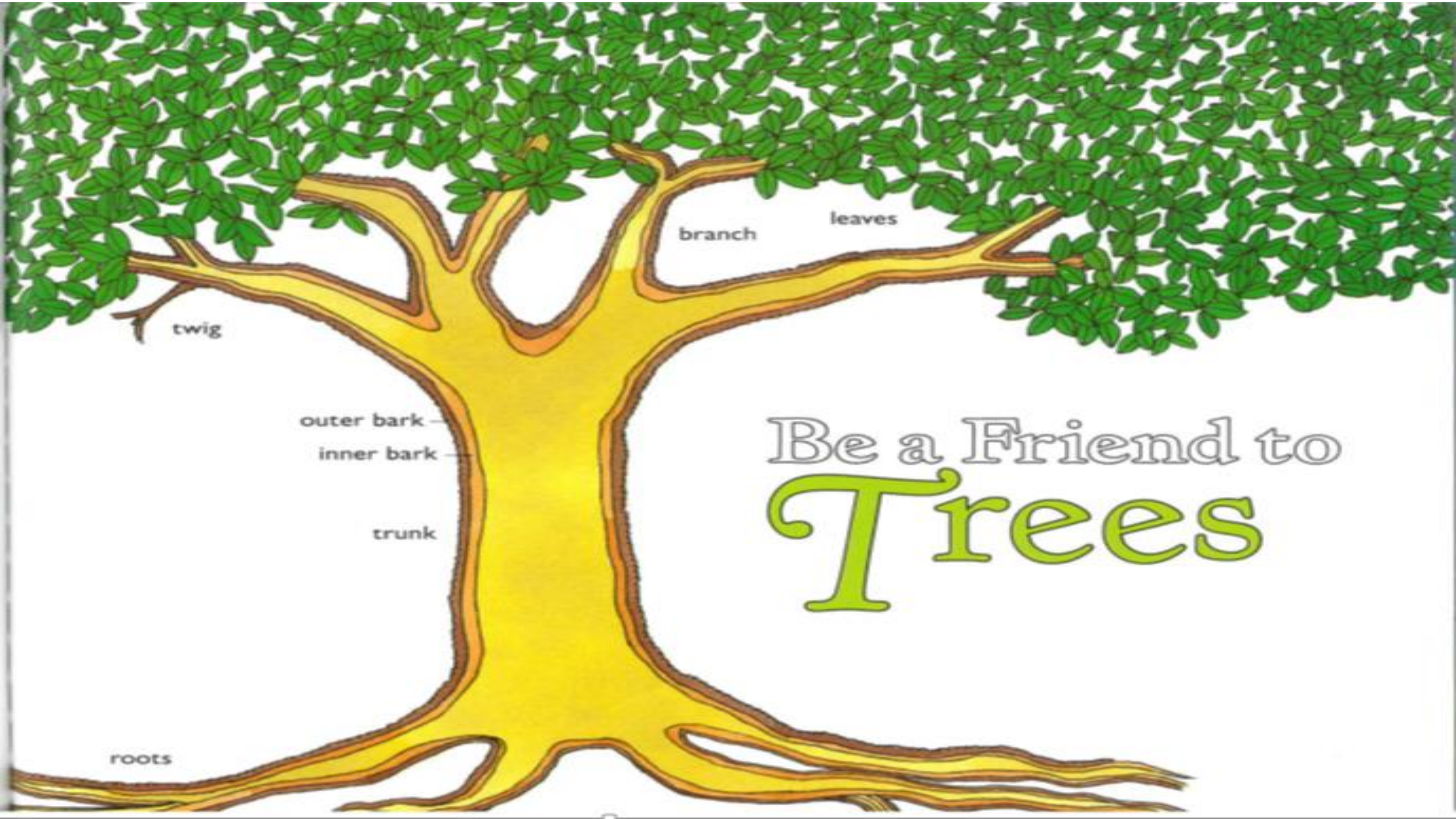
Trees



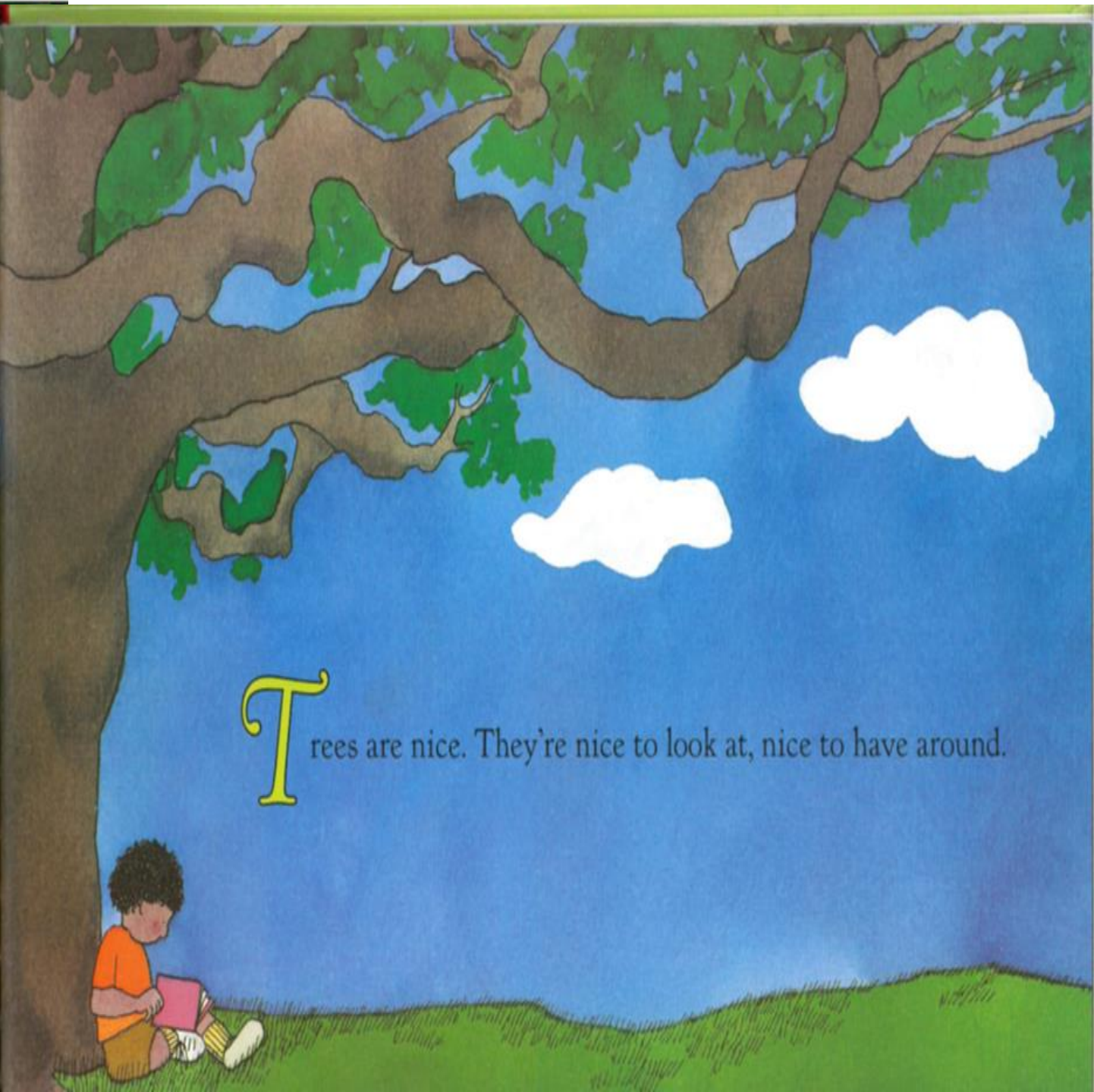
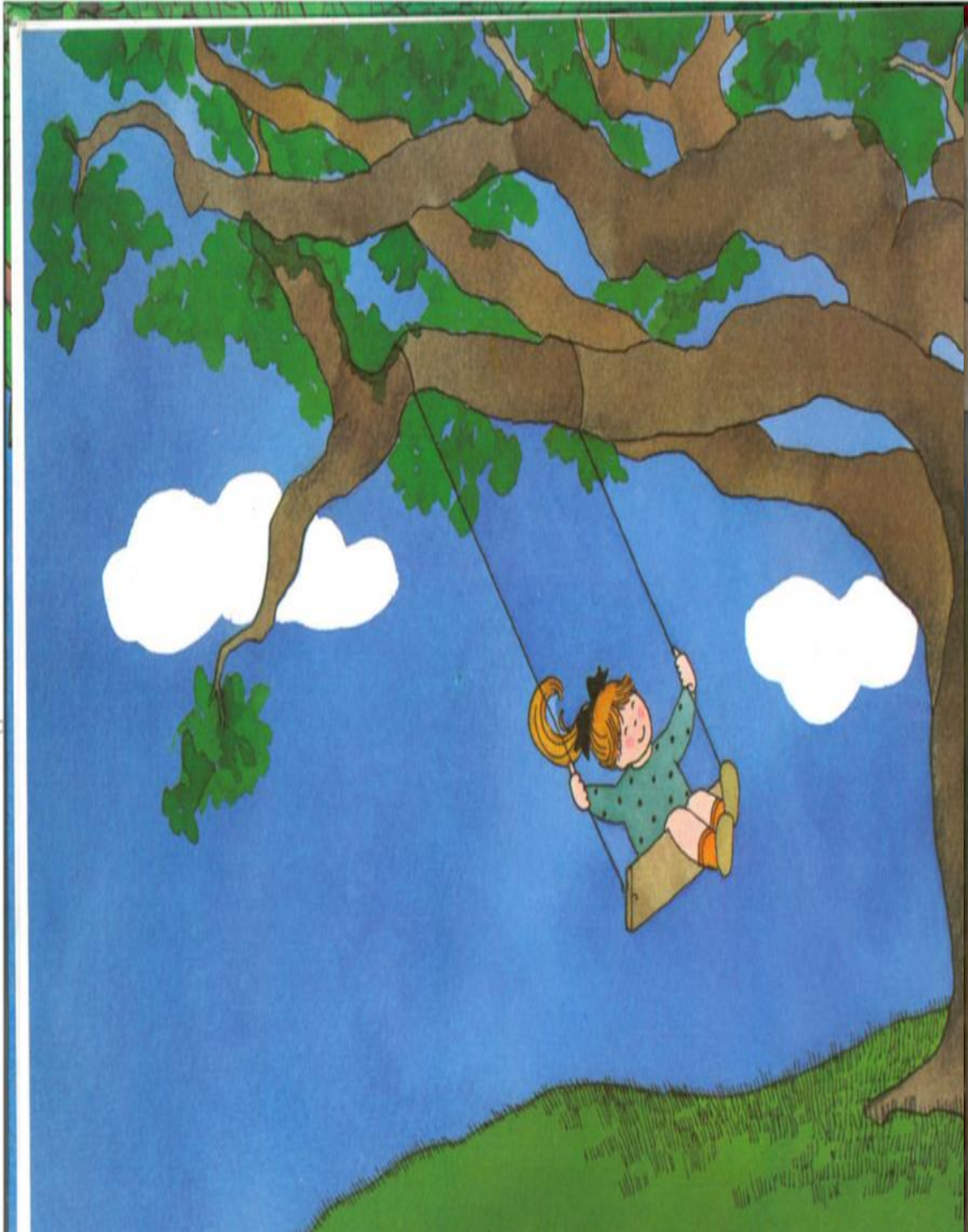
BY
Patricia Lauber

ILLUSTRATED BY
Holly Keller

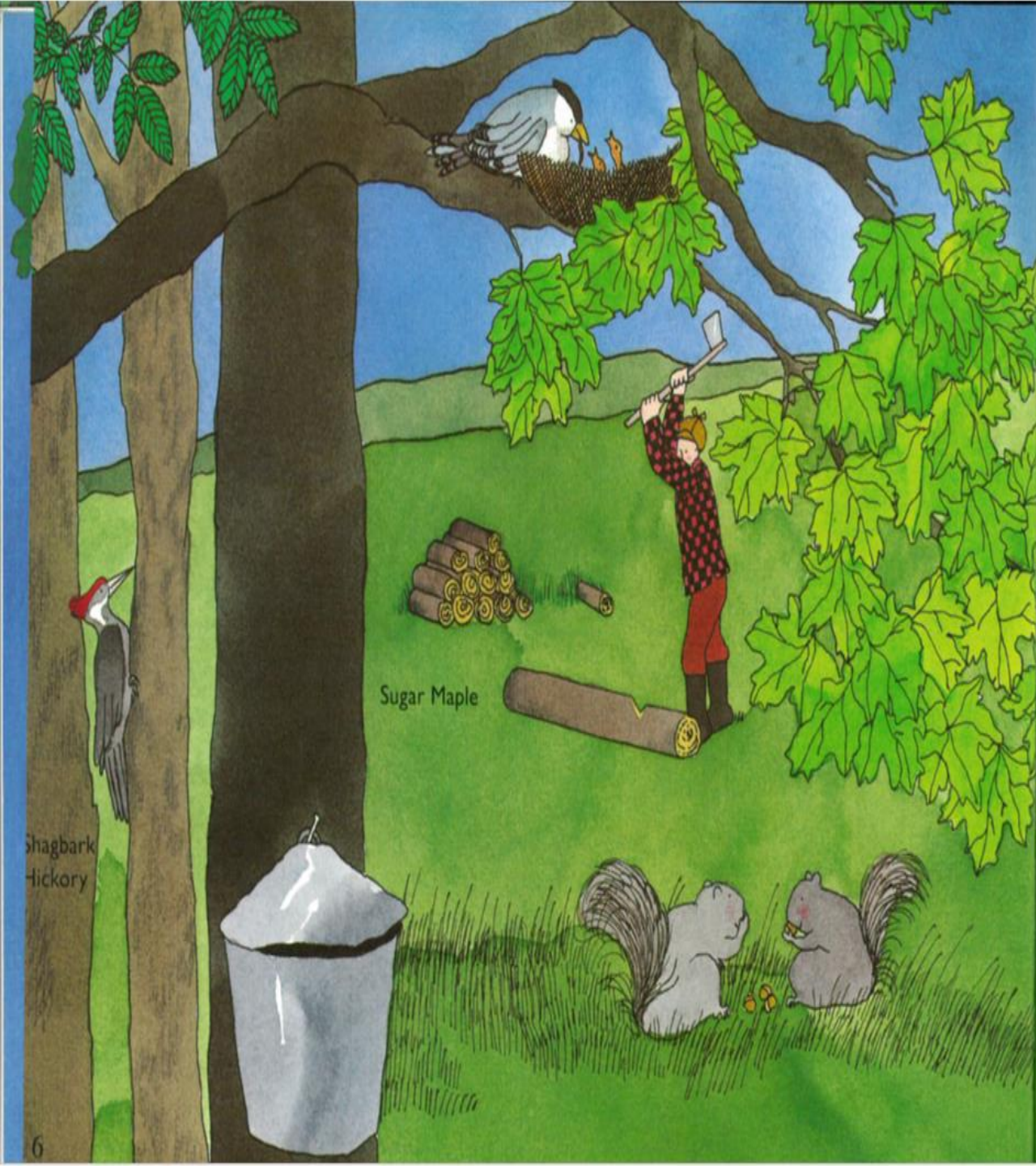




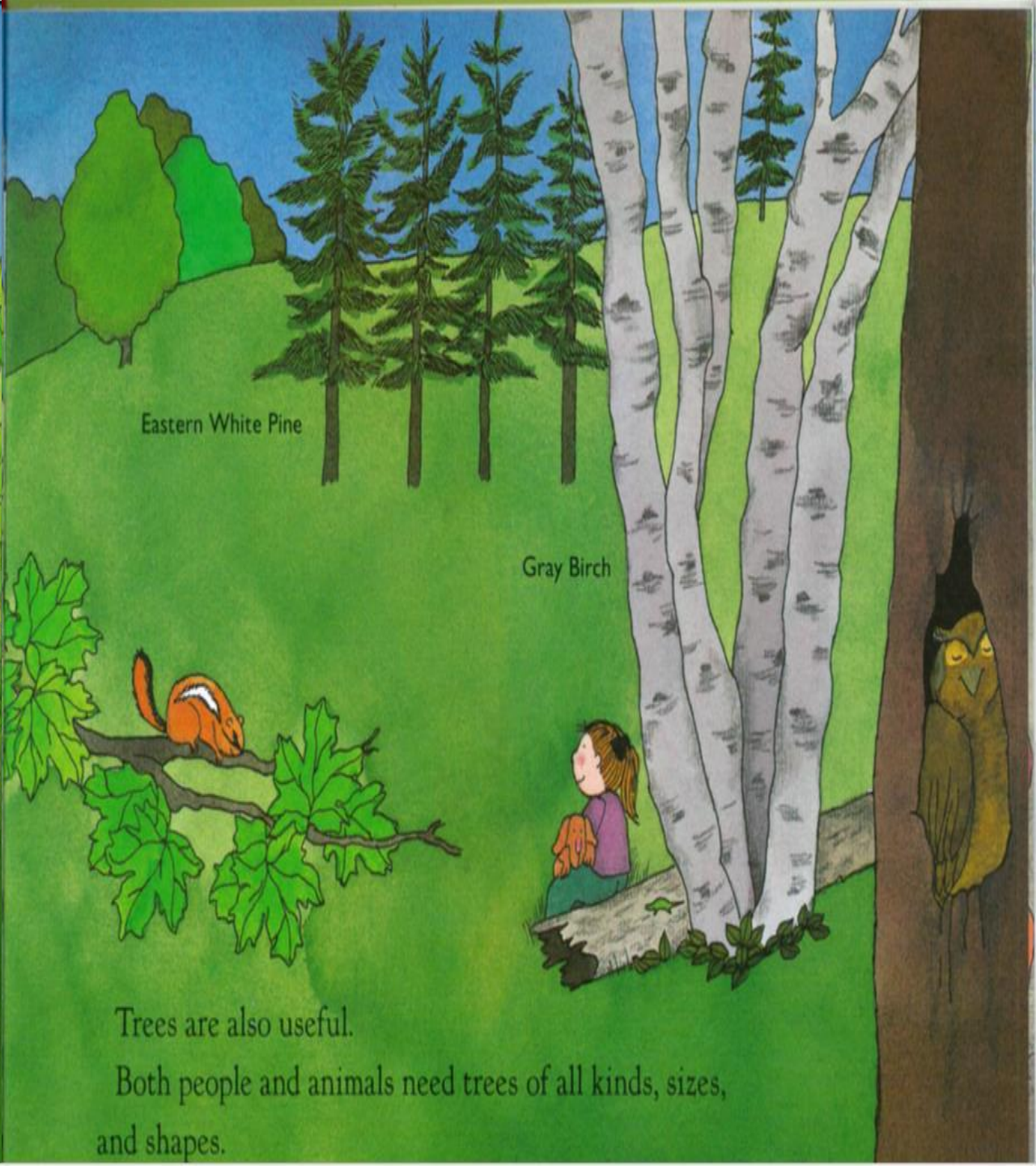
Be a Friend to Trees



Trees are nice. They're nice to look at, nice to have around.



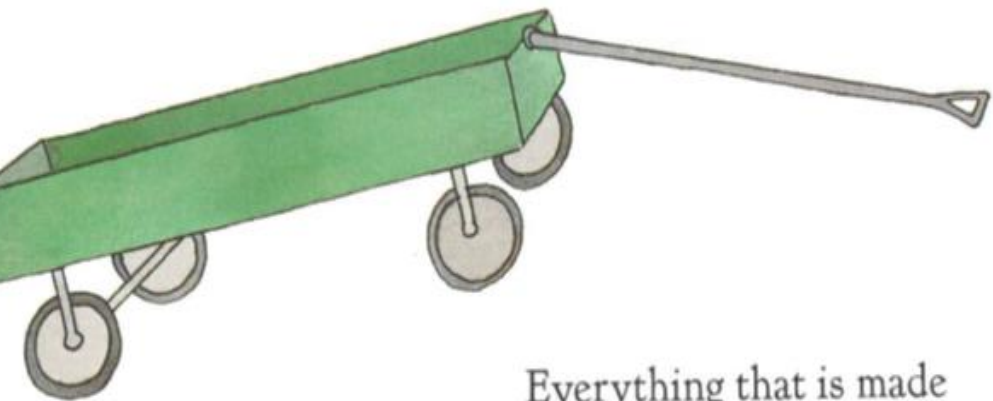
Sugar Maple



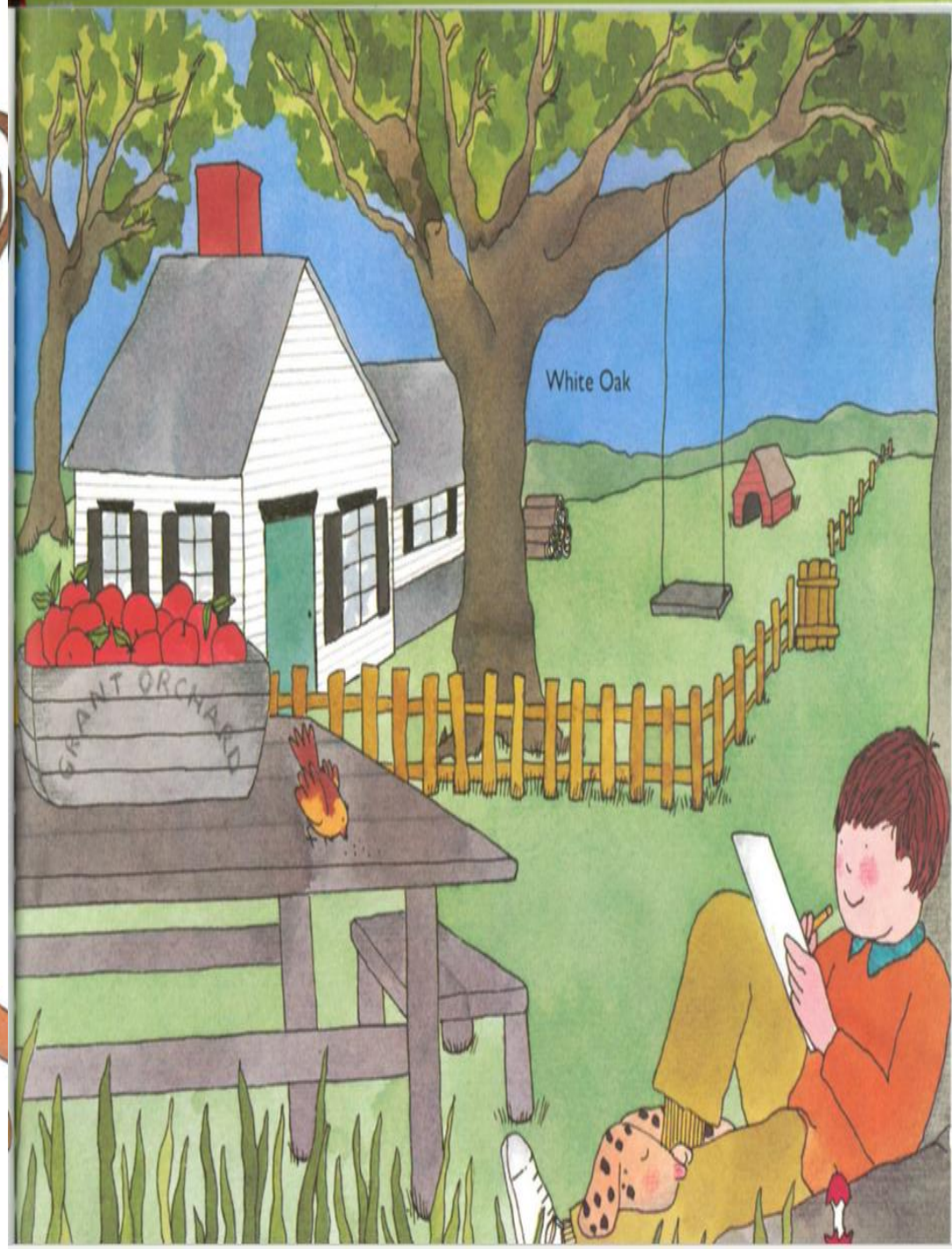
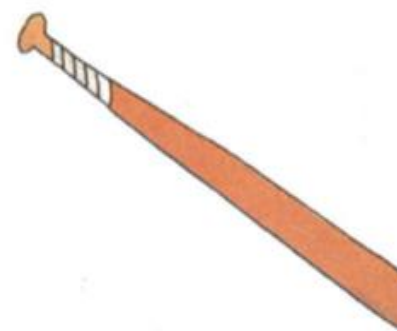
Eastern White Pine

Gray Birch

Trees are also useful.
Both people and animals need trees of all kinds, sizes,
and shapes.

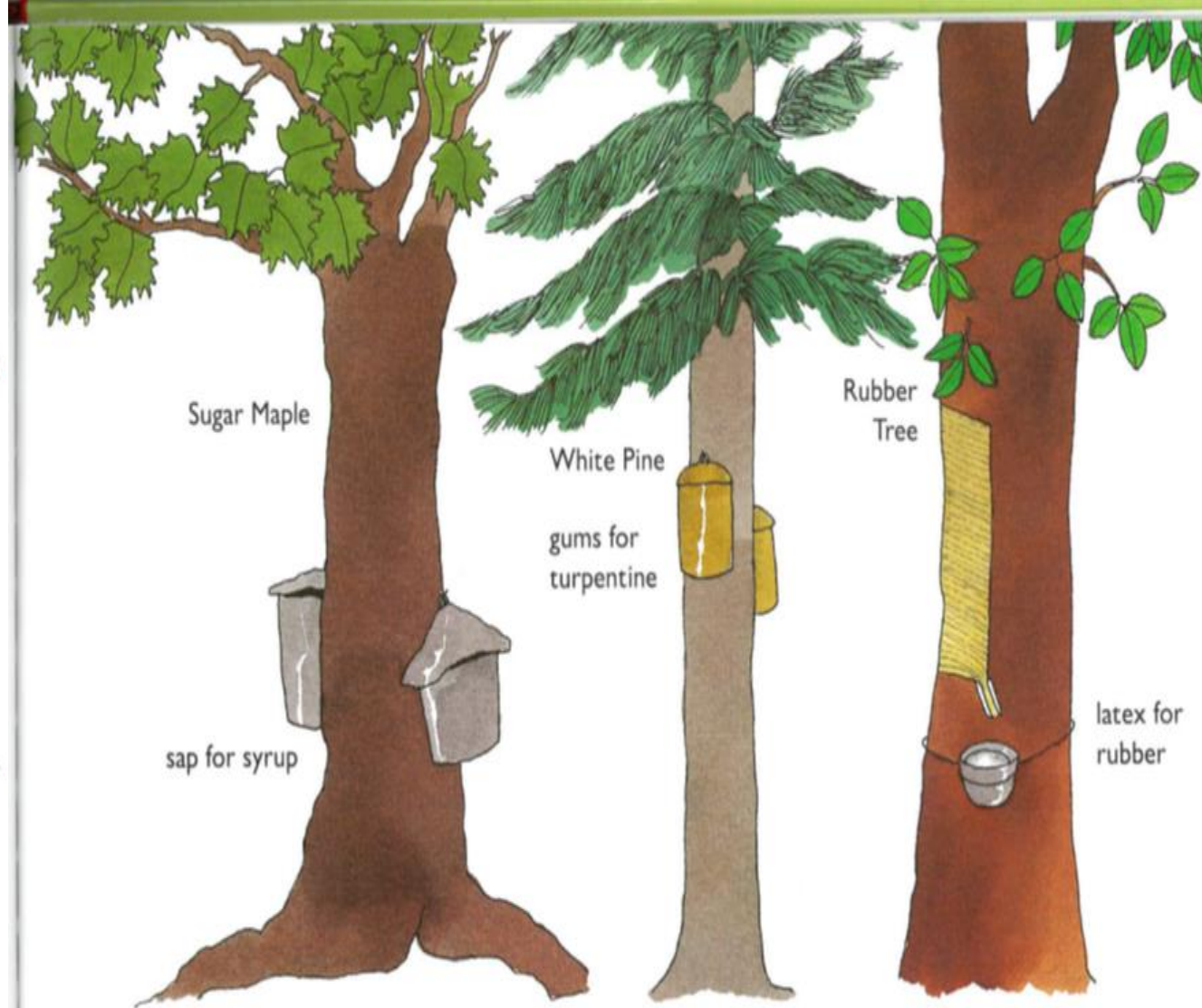
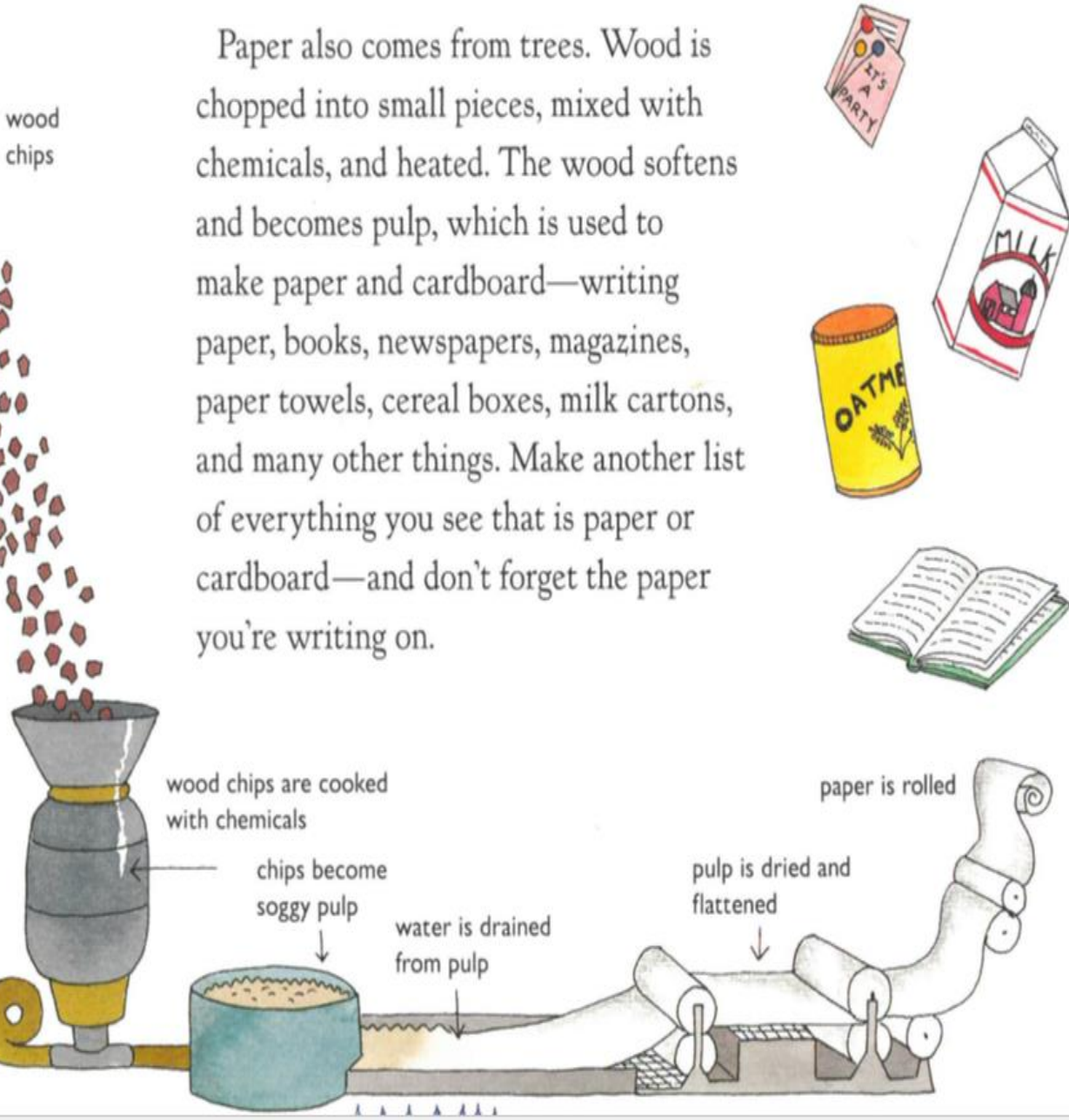


Everything that is made of wood was once part of a tree. Look around you. How many wooden things do you see? Make a list—don't forget to count your pencil and maybe your house.



wood
chips

Paper also comes from trees. Wood is chopped into small pieces, mixed with chemicals, and heated. The wood softens and becomes pulp, which is used to make paper and cardboard—writing paper, books, newspapers, magazines, paper towels, cereal boxes, milk cartons, and many other things. Make another list of everything you see that is paper or cardboard—and don't forget the paper you're writing on.



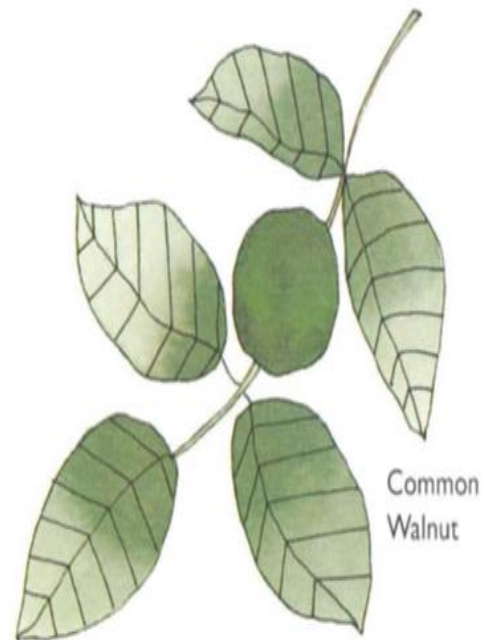
Some trees can be tapped for their sap. Sap from different trees is used to make maple syrup, chewing gum, soap, paint thinner, and rubber.

Trees are green plants, and so they make their own food. Green plants are the only living things that can do this. Other living things depend on green plants for food. Some eat parts of plants. Some eat the plant eaters. Some eat both.

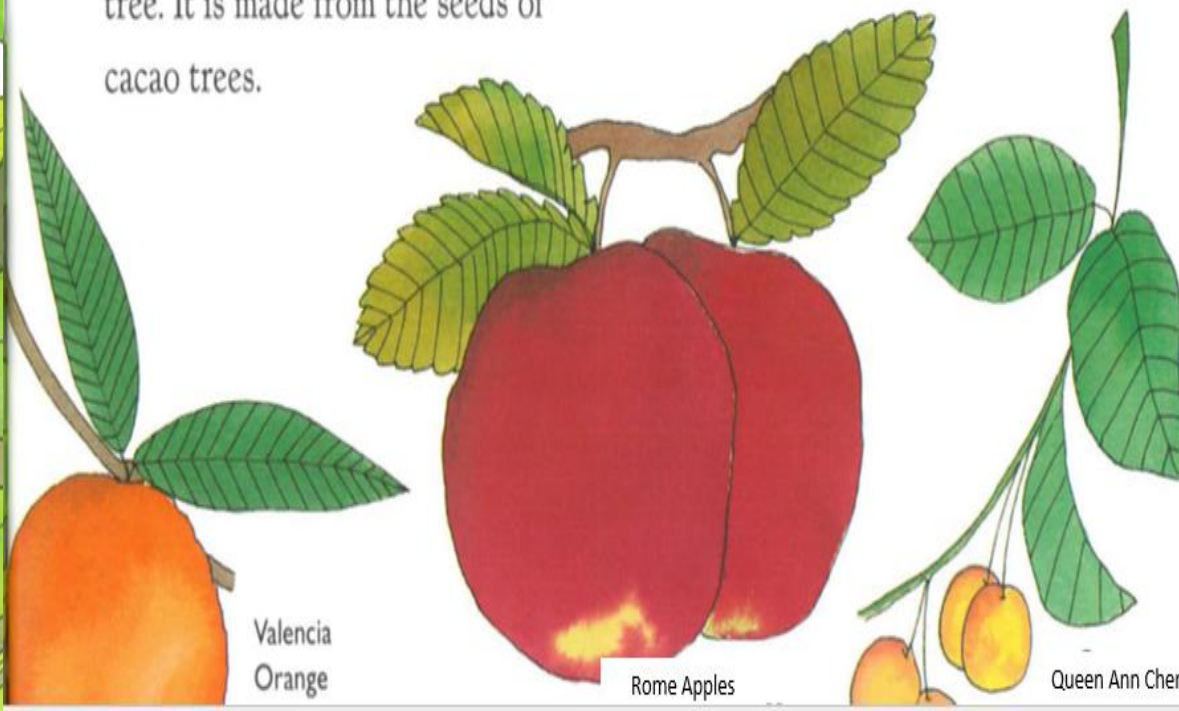


You eat the parts of trees known as fruits and nuts—apples, oranges, pears, cherries, peaches, walnuts, almonds, pecans, hazelnuts, and lots of others.

Chocolate also comes from a tree. It is made from the seeds of cacao trees.



Common Walnut



Valencia Orange

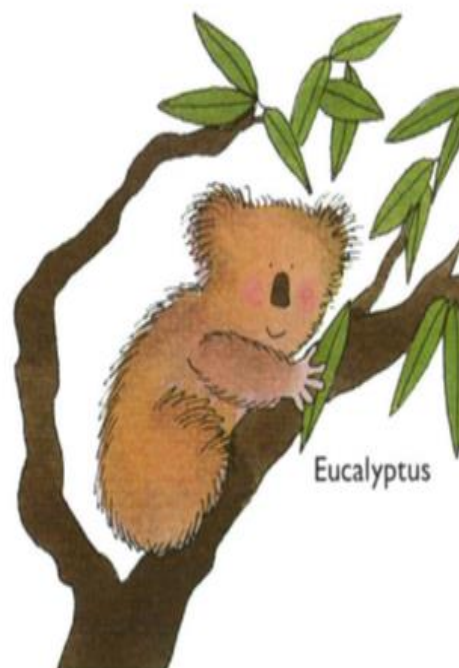
Rome Apples

Queen Ann Cherries

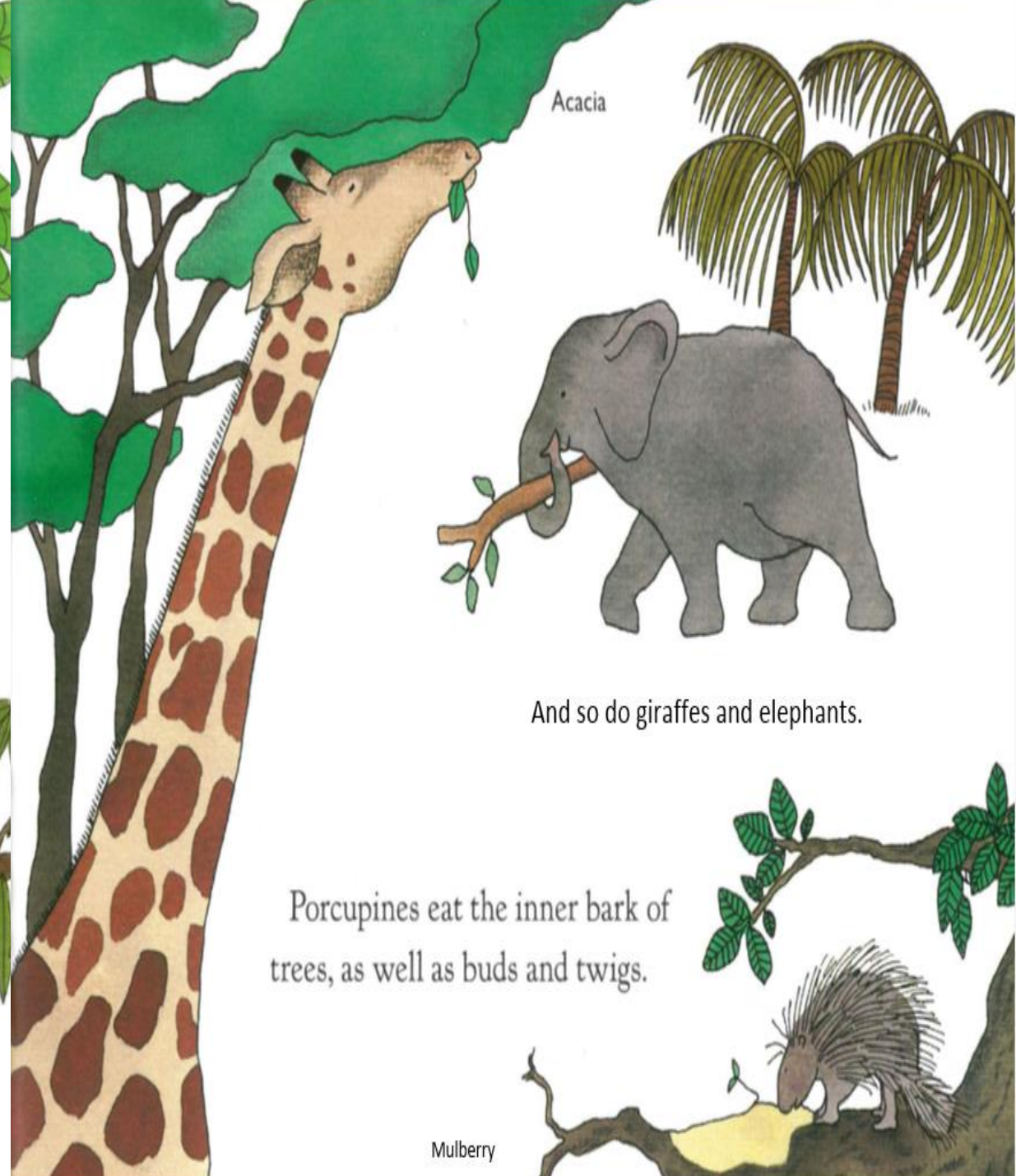
Many animals eat parts of trees.
Caterpillars eat leaves.



So do deer.

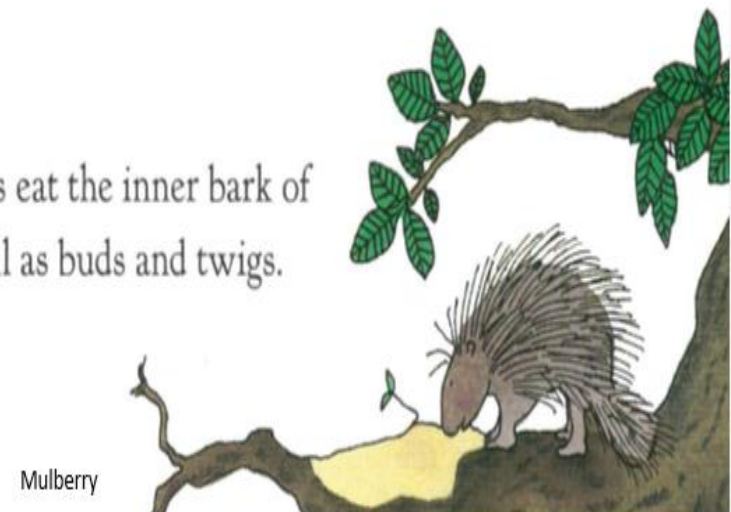



So do koalas.




And so do giraffes and elephants.

Porcupines eat the inner bark of
trees, as well as buds and twigs.






Northern Red
Oak




Scarlet Hawthorn (fruit)



Squirrels and chipmunks gather nuts to eat.
Bees find food in the flowers of trees. They collect
pollen and the sugary liquid called nectar.
Birds eat seeds and fruits from trees.
And those are only a few of the animals that find their
food in trees.



Scarlet Hawthorn
(flower)




Many animals make their homes in trees.



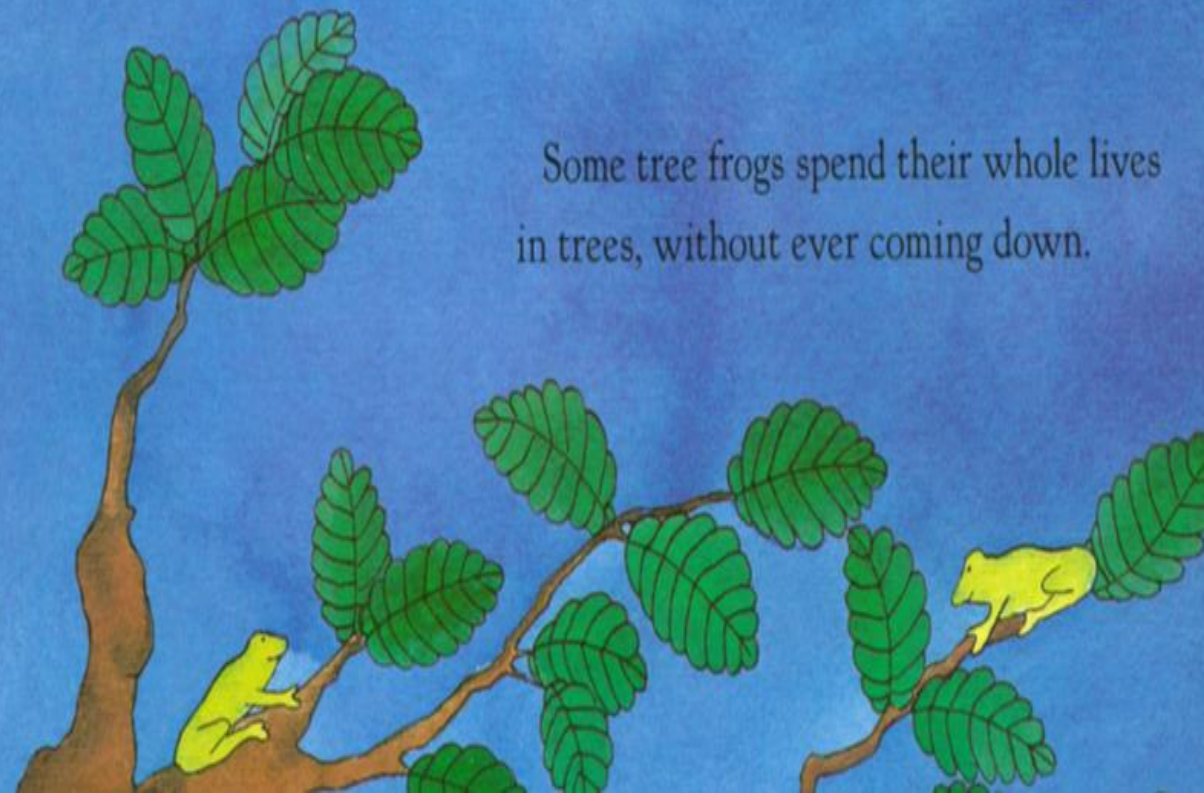
Birds roost in trees. They build nests and raise their young in trees.

Squirrels nest in trees.

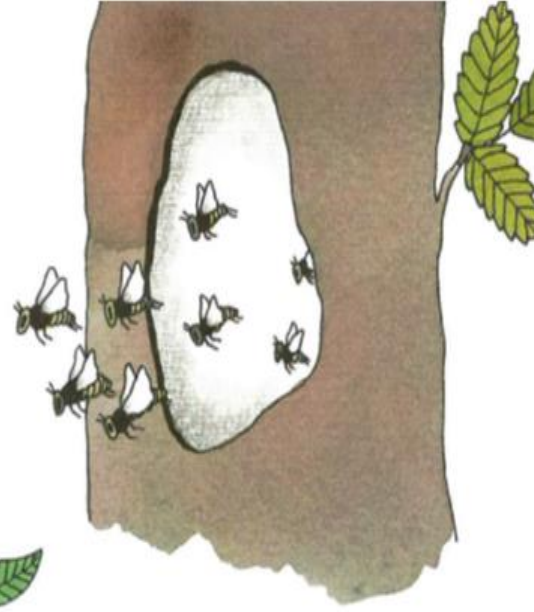
Monkeys live in trees.



Some tree frogs spend their whole lives in trees, without ever coming down.



Honeybees make hives in tree hollows.



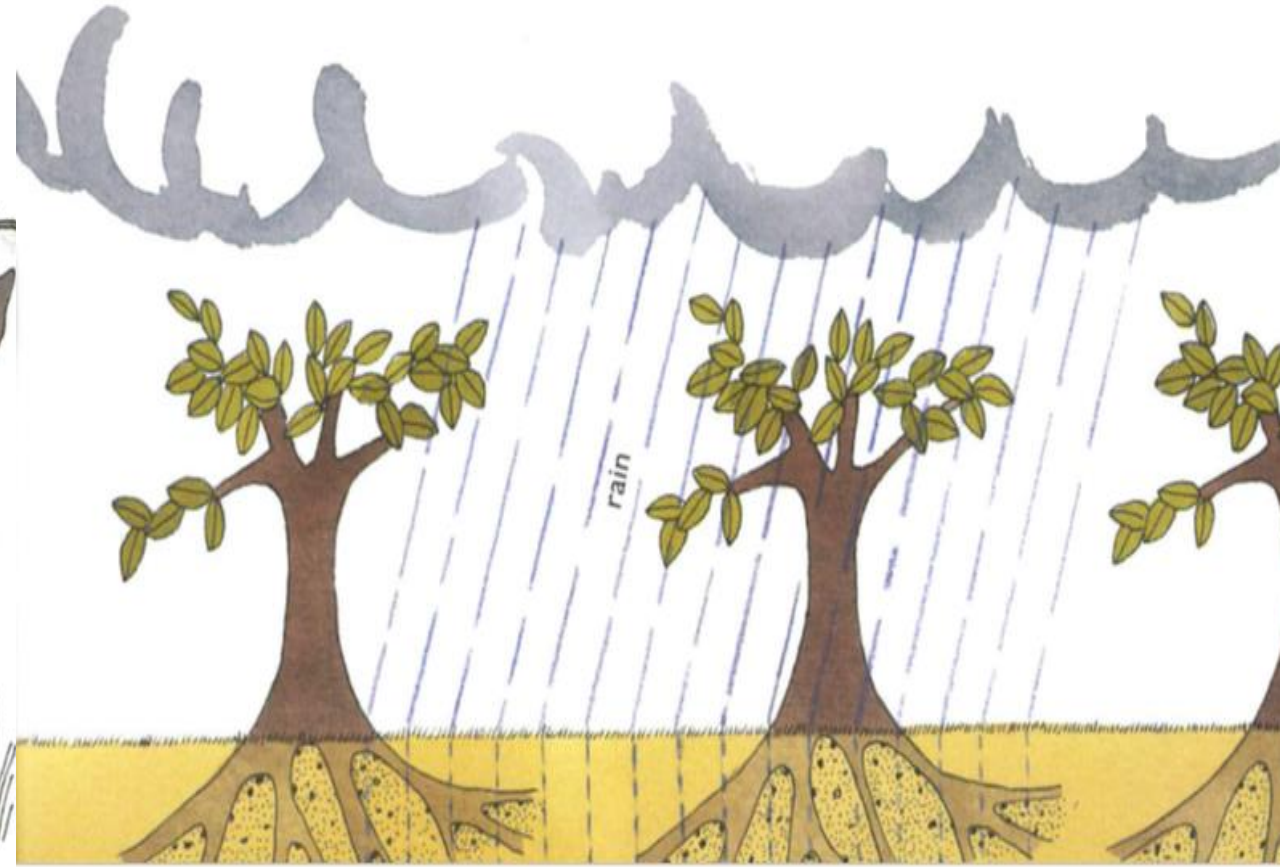
Many other insects also live in trees.
So do small creatures such as spiders.



Deer find shelter beneath the trees of forests
and woodlands. They find safe places to hide
their young.



The roots of trees hold soil in place. They keep it from
washing away in heavy rains or floods of water from melting
snow. When soil is held in place, water sinks into it and
is stored in the ground. Many people depend on water that is
stored underground. They draw it to the surface through wells.



Trees do something else that is very important. It has to do with the air we breathe.

Air is made of gases. One of them is oxygen. It is the gas that our bodies need. It is the gas that all animals need.

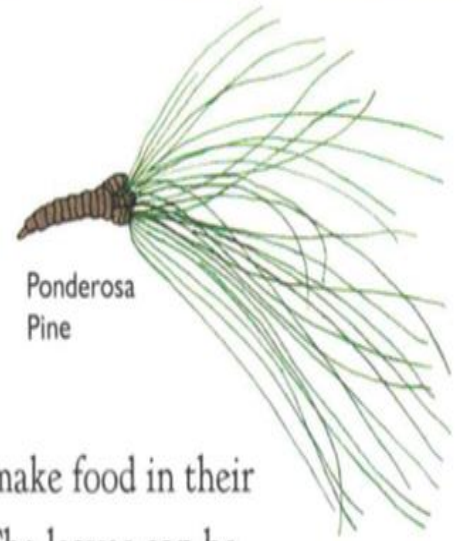
Each time we breathe, we take oxygen out of the air. But the supply is never used up. The reason is that trees and other green plants keep putting oxygen into the air. They give off oxygen as they make their food.



Post Oak



Ponderosa
Pine



Quaking Aspen

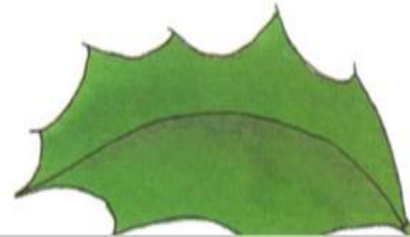


Gray Birch

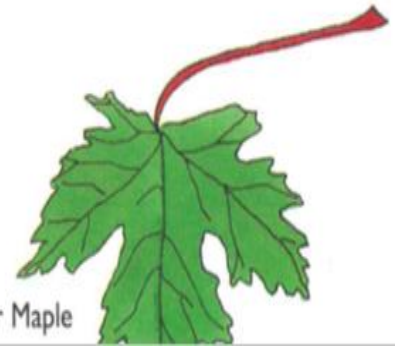


Trees make food in their leaves. The leaves can be broad, like the ones you see on a maple tree. They can be narrow and pointed, like the needle-shaped leaves you see on a fir or a pine tree. All these green leaves do the same work. They make food for the trees.

American
Holly



Silver Maple

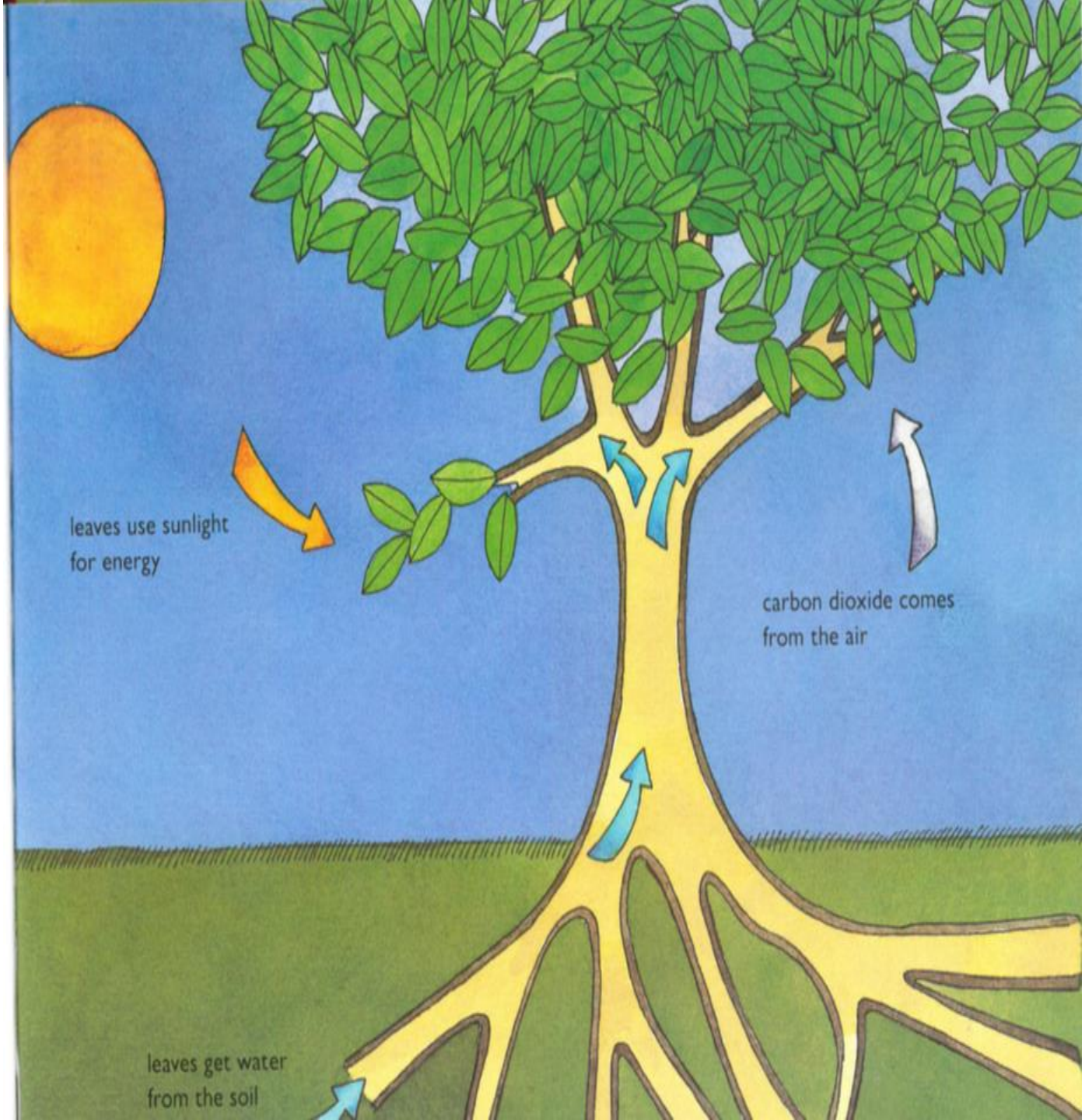
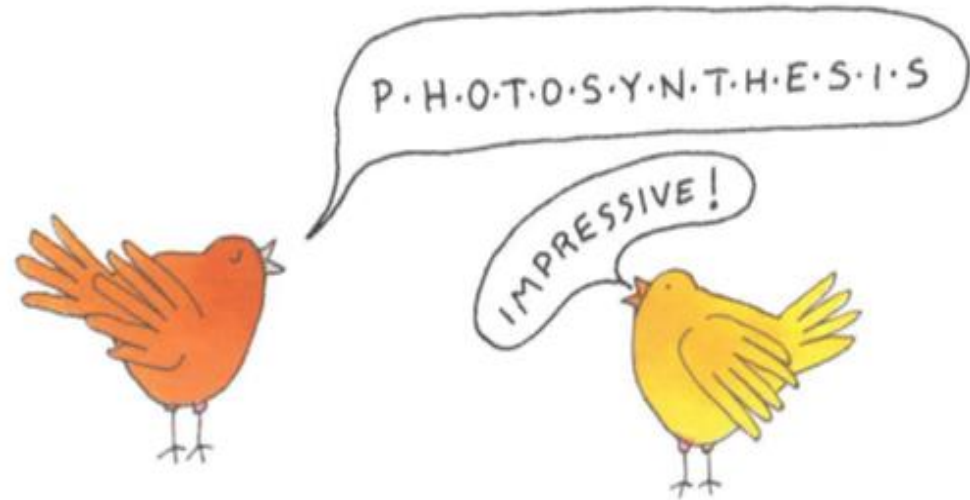


To make food, leaves use water, which they take from the ground.

They use a gas called carbon dioxide, which they take from the air.

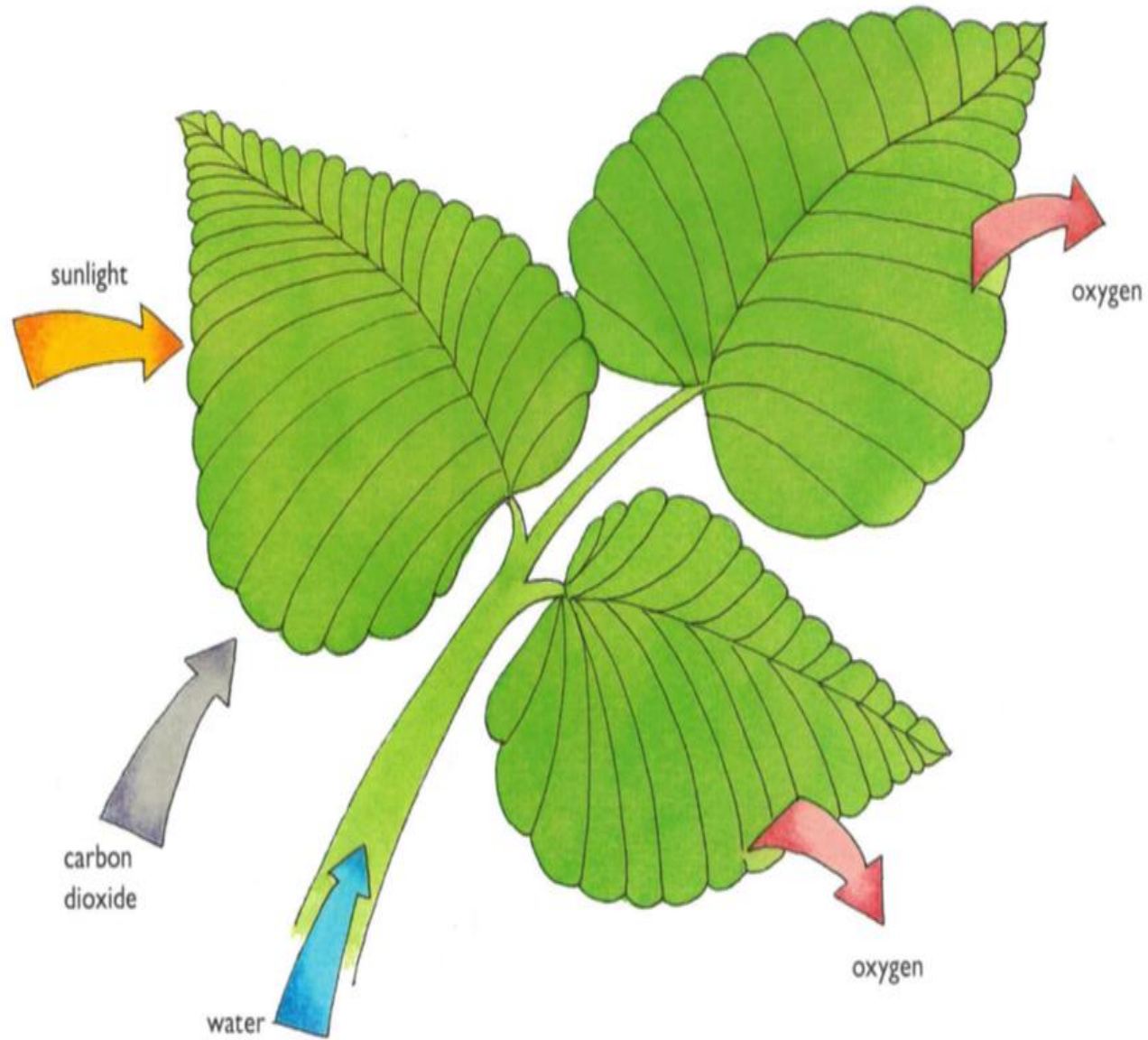
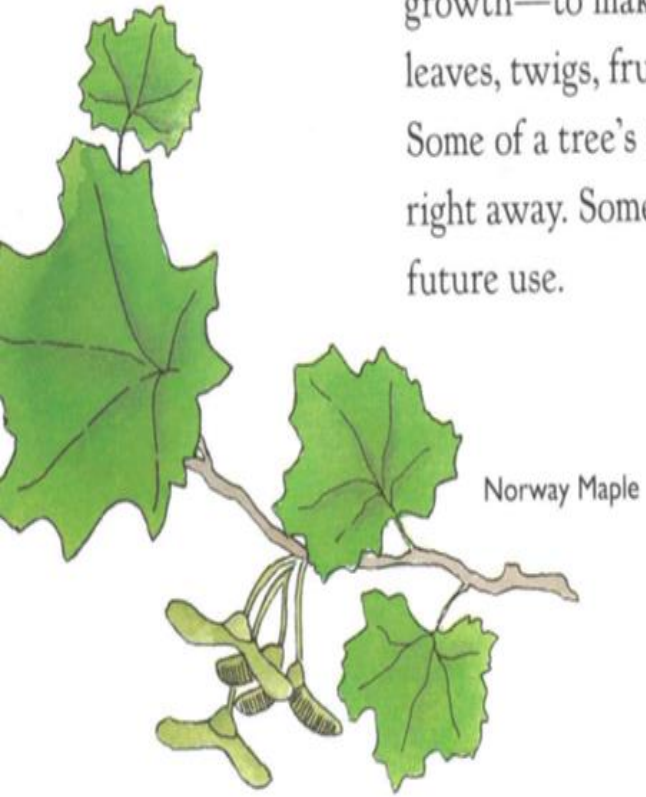
They use sunlight as energy.

With energy from the sun, green leaves put the water and carbon dioxide together. They make a kind of sugar. The making of food by plants is called photosynthesis, a word that means “putting together with light.”

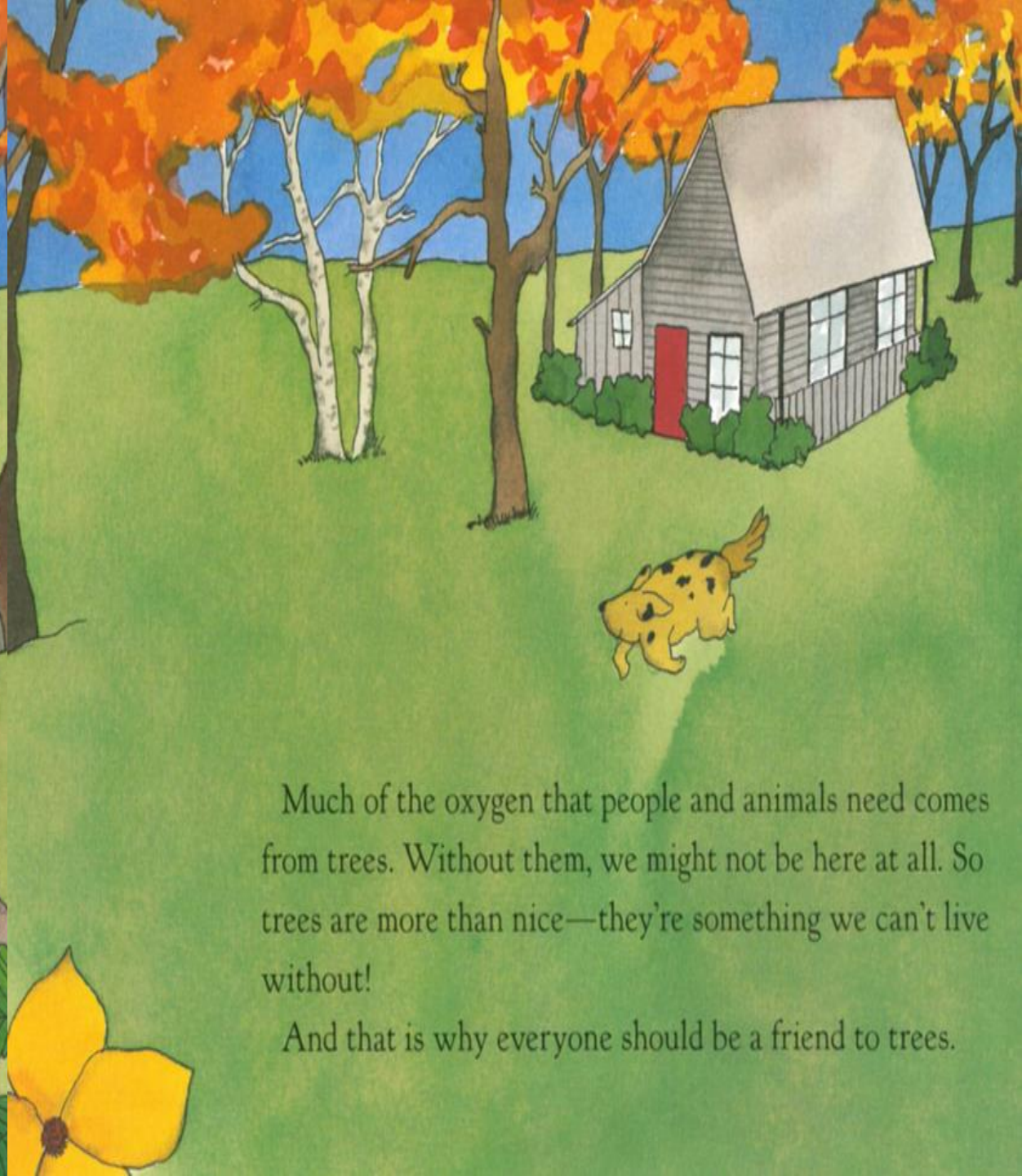




Trees need food just to stay alive. They also need food for growth—to make new wood, leaves, twigs, fruits, and nuts. Some of a tree's food is used right away. Some is stored for future use.



While making food, leaves also make oxygen that they don't need. They get rid of it by putting it into the air.



Much of the oxygen that people and animals need comes from trees. Without them, we might not be here at all. So trees are more than nice—they're something we can't live without!

And that is why everyone should be a friend to trees.

How to Be a Friend to Trees

There are lots of things you can do to be a friend to trees. Here are a few. See how many more you can think of.

🌲 Using less paper is a great way to save trees.

If you can, use a rag, a sponge, or a dish towel instead of a paper towel.



🌲 Do you usually write on only one side of a piece of paper? Don't throw it out. Use the other side for scrap paper.



🌲 Take along a paper bag when you go to market. Most bags can be used over again. No one needs new bags every time. Better yet, take your own net or canvas bag to market. Then you won't need the store's bags at all.

If you buy something small and don't need a bag, say "No, thanks."

🌲 Recycling paper is another way to be a friend. When paper is recycled, it is shredded, mashed, washed, and made into paper again. Then we need less new paper. And that means fewer trees must be cut. Suppose all the people in the United States recycled their Sunday newspapers. That would save 500,000 trees a week! Does your family recycle? Do you help?



And then there is something else you can do, if you have
the chance.

Help plant a tree.

