

Pre-reading

Group discussion questions:

How many of you have spent time near a tree? What might you find near or on a tree? Why sounds might you hear? Why are trees important? How do people use trees?

Knowledge

The title of the book is *The Busy Tree*. What do you think the book will be about?

Given a list of objects in the book, identify them as living and non-living.

Comprehension

(After reading the story)

Describe in your own words what the story was about. The story begins in the tree's roots and ascends up the tree with each page turn: sequence the events in the story from bottom to top, in a linear fashion.

Application

Sort the living organisms in the book as plant or animal. Describe how plants and animals depend on non-living parts of their habitat. Recognize that an ecosystem is made up of parts that are dependent upon each other, and that in one part will affect the entire system.

Multiple Intelligence Activities for
The Busy Tree

Verbal/Linguistic

Write your own story about a tree
-or-

Write a series of haiku poems (5-7-5 syllables) about a tree or the scenes or animals in the book.

Visual/Spatial

Create tree-themed artwork. Press leaves and create shapes and designs with them.

Musical/Rhythmic

Encourage students to clap to the beat as the story is read.

Allow children to pantomime the animal actions in the story. Invite children to impersonate a tree.

Interpersonal

Choose an animal from *The Busy Tree* to research. Create posters with facts about your animal and share what you learned. Spend time with a tree, documenting sights and sounds. Note the different textures (bark, leaves). Sketch or photograph your tree throughout the seasons.

Analyze

How is a deciduous forest ecosystem similar to a rainforest ecosystem? How are they different? Compare and contrast both, using a Venn Diagram. Group or classify organisms in *The Busy Tree* by class or physical characteristics. (e.g. mammal, bird, insect, by texture, shape, color.)

Synthesize

Imagine you are an animal who depends a tree for survival. Which animal would you be? Where on the tree would you make your home? Do you think the things the animals do in this book are true, or factual? Why or why not?

Evaluation

Which illustration is your favorite? Why? Why are trees important? In what ways do trees serve people? How do trees serve the planet? Name the basic needs of all plants (light, water, air).

about

the Author & Illustrator

Jennifer Ward is the author of numerous award-winning children's books celebrating the wonders of the natural world. Visit her on the Web at jenniferwardbooks.com

Lisa Falkenstern has worked as a professional illustrator in publishing and advertising for more than twenty years. *The Busy Tree* is the first picture book she has illustrated.

Praise for

The Busy Tree

"These are my roots, winding and long; / they anchor and feed me and help me grow strong." The wonder of ecology is in the close-up details as an oak tree tells its story about growing tall and making connections with all kinds of creatures in nature, including spiders, ants, owls, and other plants. Branches leafy and high are a "sidewalk" for squirrels that soar. One branch cradles a nest. With the simple first-person narrative, the poetry is as much fun as the science ("Here is my track where busy ants scurry / searching for food as they march in a hurry"), and big, clear, handsome oil paintings add to the title's read-aloud appeal. The tree's important conservation role ("breathing out air for all to breathe in") will open up more pathways for discussion and sharing across the curriculum.

—*Booklist*, September 1, 2009

The Busy Tree

Written by Jennifer Ward
Illustrated by Lisa Falkenstern

Spectacular illustrations and a rhyming text describe the amazing activities that go on in a tree from its roots to its top. Chipmunks nibbling acorns, ants scurrying across a trunk, a spider spinning a web, leaves "breathing out air for all to breathe in" – everything adds up to a busy tree for all to look at and enjoy!

Hardcover \$17.99
ISBN 9780761455509

Ages 3 to 8 - 32 pages - fully illustrated
7 3/4 x 11 5/8

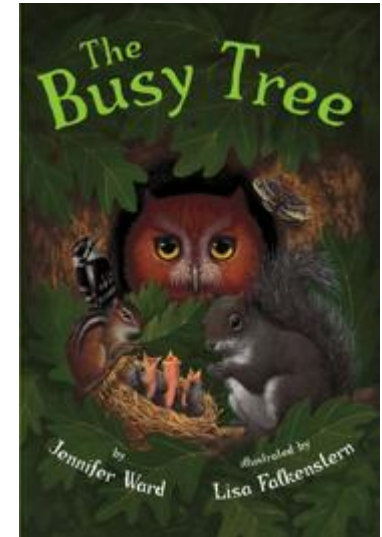
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www.marshallcavendish.us/kids

The Busy Tree

Written by Jennifer Ward
Illustrated by Lisa Falkenstern



*I'm a tree, a busy tree...
come and see.*

THEMATIC CONNECTIONS

- ❖ **Biomes, animals and nature**
 - ❖ Rhyme
 - ❖ Circular Stories
 - ❖ Ecosystems
 - ❖ Plants