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**This is the Tree**

**By Miriam Moss**

**Illustrated by Adrienne Kennaway**

**After Reading:**

- Go back to the first pages. Reread, “This is the tree, when the world was still young, that pushed up through the earth as a small, tender shoot.” Begin a discussion of plant survival. What are the optimum conditions in which plants grow?
- Talk about the parts of a tree and how they work: leaves, branches, trunk (bark and core), roots. What does each part do?
- How can you tell the ages of trees? What are some of the oldest trees on our planet and where are they found? Do you live in an area of the country that has very old trees?

**Activities:**

- The tree in this story plays host to many kinds of wildlife. Go back through the pages, and list all the animals mentioned in the story.
- Take a walk. Look for plant life that has grown under unusual conditions such as a crack in the sidewalk or a hole in the driveway. Look too, for plants that have pushed their way up between rocks, sand, or other unusual material.
- Experiment with growing conditions. Plant one seed in six different paper cups. Put one cup in a dark place and one in a light place. Water one cup regularly, and don’t water another. Use good soil in one cup and sand or rocks in another. Keep notes on what occurs.
- Take sketch pads outside to sketch a variety of trees. Study the various shapes, leaves, and branching patterns.
- Make a list of how trees are used. Include the foods they provide, building materials, medicines, and other products such as dyes, rubber, rope, and fibers for weaving.
- To show how plants and trees absorb water, place a celery stick or white carnation in a glass of food coloring. Watch as it changes color.