

Kindergarten: Labs Recommended Story Time and Research Book List

The recommended book list is designed to use in Labs for story time or research to enhance student understanding of module content or habits of characters. Teachers may choose to use these or similar books.

Module 3:

Title	Author (Last Name, First Name)	Description	Text Type	Lexile
<i>A Grand Old Tree</i>	DePalma, Mary Newell	This simple yet powerful text reveals the cycle of life when a grand old tree provides a home to many creatures.	Informational	460
<i>A Tree Is a Plant</i>	Bulla, Clyde Robert	Follow the growth of a tree from seed to maturity and everything along the way - roots taking hold, trunk and branches growing higher and stronger, buds bursting forth and the fruit that follows, the changing of the leaves and rest in the winter.	Informational	
<i>A Tree Is Nice</i>	Udry, Janice May	From shade to shelter, read aloud this Caldecott winner and enjoy the simple yet powerful ways that trees are nice.	Informational	420
<i>Are Trees Alive?</i>	Miller, Debbie	Compare the many parts and functions of a tree to people and you will find they are not very different after all! Beautifully written and illustrated, this text offers opportunities for children to engage in movement as they act out the comparisons of trees and people.	Literary	640
<i>Be a Friend to Trees</i>	Lauber, Patricia	There are many, many ways that people and animals depend on trees. Learn how trees are a natural resource, food source, and shelter. If you're looking for ways to be a friend to trees, be sure to read the last few pages of this text for some great ideas!	Informational	500
<i>Branching Out: How Trees Are Part of Our World</i>	Galat, Joan Marire	Best used as a research text, <i>Branching Out</i> features eleven different trees, the importance of trees as a part of our environment, the ways animals and trees need each other, and how trees are important for people.	Informational	NC1200
<i>Call Me Tree / Llámame árbol</i>	Gonzalez, Maya Christina	Learn what it means to be strong and tall and free - like a tree. Told in both Spanish and English, this text inspires the hopes and dreams of those who read it.	Literary	

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<i>Celebritrees: Historic & Famous Trees of the World</i>	Preus, Margi	Read about fourteen historic trees from around the world and what made them famous. With one page of text and one detailed illustration devoted to each tree, this text may either be read tree by tree or all at once.	Informational	1020
<i>Desert Giant : The World Of The Saguaro Cactus</i>	Bash, Barbara	The Saguaro Cactus, a desert tree, provides for the needs of many desert animals. Learn about how this tree provides shelter and food in different ways during the daytime and nighttime.	Informational	
<i>House Held Up By Trees</i>	Kooser, Ted	A house provides a home for a father and two children, but when the children grow up and the father is alone, he decides to sell the house. When no one buys the house, the paint starts to chip, the windows crack, and the roof falls in. When it begins to fall down, the trees lift it up. Read this touching story of the power and inspiration of nature.	Literary	
<i>Just Like Me, Climbing a Tree</i>	Bernard, Durga Yael	Discover the wonderful variety trees around the world, and how the children climbing these trees imitate the behaviors of native creatures who climb these same trees.	Informational	AD760
<i>Leaf Man</i>	Ehlert, Lois	Lois Ehlert sees a man, Leaf Man, in the pile of leaves, but when the east wind blows its sends Leaf Man traveling away. Discover his journey and the other leaf creatures he encounters along the way. This text offers ideas for students to use their imaginations to create leaf creatures during Literacy Labs.	Literary	310
<i>Mama Miti: Wangari Maathai and the Trees of Kenya</i>	Napoli, Donna Jo	When women and children of Kenya bring their troubles to Wangari, or Mama Miti, her wise advice to them is to plant trees. Not just any type of tree, she offers them a tree to meet their very need. When they plant and reap the bounty and solution to their struggle, they are grateful to the “mother of trees.”	Informational	AD710
<i>Planting the Trees of Kenya: The Story of Wangari Maathai</i>	Nivola, Claire A.	Based on the true story of Wangari Maathai and the trees of Kenya, this story captures the beauty and bounty of Kenya's tree-filled landscape and what happened when the trees were cut down. Learn how Wangari helped her people restore the beauty and bounty of her homeland by planting trees.	Informational	AD1030
<i>Plants!</i>	Iasevoli, Brenda	There are some things that all plants have in common and there are other things are unique to each plant! This informational text offers vivid photographs and interesting facts about plants in general and highlights some special plants.	Informational	
<i>Poetrees</i>	Florian, Douglas	Learn about the characteristics of trees from all over the world through delightful poems and artwork. Read in small portions paired with other read aloud texts to focus on a particular type of tree or as a warm up to Story Time. A helpful “Glossatree” is provided for more interesting facts about each tree featured in the collection of poems.	Poetry	

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<i>Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf</i>	Ehlert, Lois	When a young tree travels from the garden center to a child's home, its yearly growth and seasonal changes are eagerly anticipated. Read more in-depth about the parts of a tree and how to plant a tree with the informational text provided at the end of the book.	Literary	AD680
<i>Tell Me, Tree: All About Trees for Kids</i>	Gibbons, Gail	This research text provides information through illustrations, labels, and text. Students may study the different parts of a tree as well as the identifying features of various trees.	Informational	580
<i>The Busy Tree</i>	Ward, Jennifer	From the tiniest ladybug to the hidden owl, study the intricate illustrations paired with rich text describing how these creatures keep this tree so busy.	Literary	AD890
<i>The Great Kapok Tree: A Tale of Amazon Rain Forest</i>	Cherry, Lynn	When the great Kapok tree is in danger of being chopped down, the animals of the Amazon rain forest rescue the tree by describing the unique ways each of them depends on the tree.	Literary	670
<i>The Mangrove Tree: Planting Trees to Feed Families</i>	Roth, Susan L. & Cindy Trumbore	Based on the work of Dr. Sato, learn how planting mangrove trees by the sea helped fishermen to fish and the impact this had on the rest of the community. This offers poetic narrative text paired with informational text as a sidebar that may be read separately. Students will enjoy the artwork and photographs featured at the end of the book.	Informational	NC1190
<i>The Tiny Seed</i>	Carle, Eric	Embark on a tiny seed's journey, and learn about the life cycle of a plant. With remarkable perspective, Eric Carle places the reader in the heart of the tiny seed's amazing adventure.	Literary	400
<i>The Tree</i>	Lyons, Dana	With remarkable perspective, the author personifies a tree and brings to life its surroundings and interactions with other elements of nature. With lifelike illustrations, each moment is captured with elegant language and images.	Literary	
<i>The Tree Lady: The True Story of How One Tree-Loving Woman Changed a City Forever</i>	Hopkins, H. Joseph	Read the inspiring story of Kate Sessions, who defied cultural norms and believed in herself and trees. When Kate moved to San Diego it was a desert town. Through her vision and hard work, she transformed the city with trees and convinced others who were skeptical that the desert could grow trees.	Informational	760
<i>This Tree Counts!</i>	Formento, Alison	Before Mr. Tate's class gets ready to plant more trees, they take a moment to discover how the single tree in the school yard is home to many animals. They also learn the names of different trees, how trees are an important part of our environment, and how trees may be used as material for things people need.	Informational	AD480
<i>Tree For All Seasons</i>	Bernard, Robin	Follow the physical changes of one tree through all four seasons, and along the way learn how this tree interacts with people and animals.	Informational	420

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<i>Trees, Leaves & Bark</i>	Burns, Diane	Explore the unique characteristics of 15 different trees - how to find the tree, its lifespan and uses, and the physical features of its leaves, bark, and seeds. Enhance students' understanding by engaging them with several hands-on activities embedded in the middle and end of the book.	Informational	640
<i>Wangari's Trees of Peace: A True Story from Africa</i>	Winter, Jeanette	When the trees of Kenya are cut down and leave the land barren, Wangari has a vision and a plan to restore the land. When she and the women of Kenya plant trees, millions of them, the land is restored and healed.	Informational	730
<i>We Planted a Tree</i>	Muldrow, Diane	Consider the benefits of simply planting a tree - cleaner air, a shady spot, fruit to eat for animals and people, sturdy soil, and more!	Informational	AD620
<i>What's Alive?</i>	Zoehfeld, Kathleen Weidner	This introductory text helps children discover the many things that are alive. From kittens to trees, things that are alive may be different but they all need food, water, and air.	Informational	430
<i>Who Will Plant a Tree?</i>	Pallota, Jerry	How can a bear, an owl, a fish and other animals all plant trees? Find out how trees get planted all over the world by animals, including people!	Literary	