

TEACHER'S GUIDE



Enrichment Activities for K-2 Classrooms and Beyond

COMPILED BY LISA BURNETT BOSSI & ANDREA ALBAN GOSLINE

REPRODUCEABLE

©2009 LISA BURNETT BOSSI & ANDREA ALBAN GOSLINE

The Happiness Tree



◆◆◆◆◆ **TEACHER'S GUIDE** ◆◆◆◆◆

C O N T E N T S

- 3 Note to Teachers
- 4 About the Author and Illustrator
- 5 "I Notice" Game
- 6 "I Notice" Cards
- 7 Bookmarks
- 8 Grow with the Seeds
- 9 Amazing Adjectives
- 10 Circle Stories
- 11 Crossword
- 12 Crossword Answer Key
- 13 Set the Stage
- 14 Tree Trips
- 15 Leaf Prints
- 16 Bark Rubbings
- 17 Resources





NOTE TO TEACHERS

A great tree is told by its sprig.

~ KOREAN PROVERB

Thank you for sharing *The Happiness Tree* with your children! On the following pages, we provide many ideas to deepen their understanding of various themes in the artistic, scientific and personal realms. From the “*I Notice*” game to language arts exercises to outdoor activities, we encourage thoughtful observation and wish to awaken the children’s reverence for the natural world.

Trees provide beauty, shelter, fuel, food and clean air. They also inspire art and poetry, by arousing emotions and filling our senses. Indeed, trees stand for our very best qualities as human beings.

We hope to inspire your students to express their own original ideas and, like the little acorn we meet in the opening scene, begin journeys, among friends, with the motto:

“Everything good begins with me.”™

Our very best wishes,

Lisa Burnett Bossi & Andrea Alban Gosline

*Please feel free to contact us with questions and to share your anecdotes and photos. Visit us at: **www.albanbossi.com.***

The Happiness Tree



ABOUT THE AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR



Author **Andrea Alban Gosline** and artist **Lisa Burnett Bossi** work together from opposite corners of the country. Andrea lives in San Francisco, California where the state tree is the California Redwood, featured on the cover of *The Happiness Tree*. Lisa lives 2,729 miles away, on the other coast, in Maine. Her state tree is the White Pine, the **Tree of Courage**. They have been close friends since 1993 and together have created an award-winning collection of books, greeting cards, journals and bookmarks.



Andrea wrote her first poetry book when she was just six! It was a parchment scroll she hand-lettered and tied with a red ribbon. She is the Mama of two children, Jake and Lily. They live in a garden cottage with their Irish Setter named Dusty. Andrea's favorite tree from the book is the **Tree of Peace**.



Lisa's first illustrated book was called "*The Little Tree*." She created it when she was eight and still treasures her one copy. She shares her home studio with a black cat named Dulcie, a dog with funny ears, named Belle and her two daughters, Lila and Clara. The tree that best describes Lisa is the **Tree of Compassion**.



“I NOTICE” GAME

A quiet, non-competitive version of “I Spy” designed to settle the children into the story and help them pay close attention to the illustrations.

YOU WILL NEED

- 🌿 Print-out cards, provided on the following page. One per child.
- 🌿 Nine tokens per child.

(Some suggestions: pebbles, acorn tops, small twigs, pennies, wooden disks.)

- 🌿 The gift: bookmarks, one per child.*

Print and trim the cards. Hand out one card and nine tokens to each child. Instruct the children to place their tokens on the squares when they notice the corresponding images in the illustrations. Read *The Happiness Tree* aloud. Give every child a bookmark gift for listening and noticing.

** Please see attached page for your free printable bookmarks.*

“I NOTICE” CARDS





The Happiness Tree



GROW WITH THE SEEDS

Hope
Love
Courage
Gratitude
Peace
Compassion
Tolerance
Generosity
Honesty
Happiness



*Ten words to inform heartfelt
discussions with children about
feelings, wishes and values.*

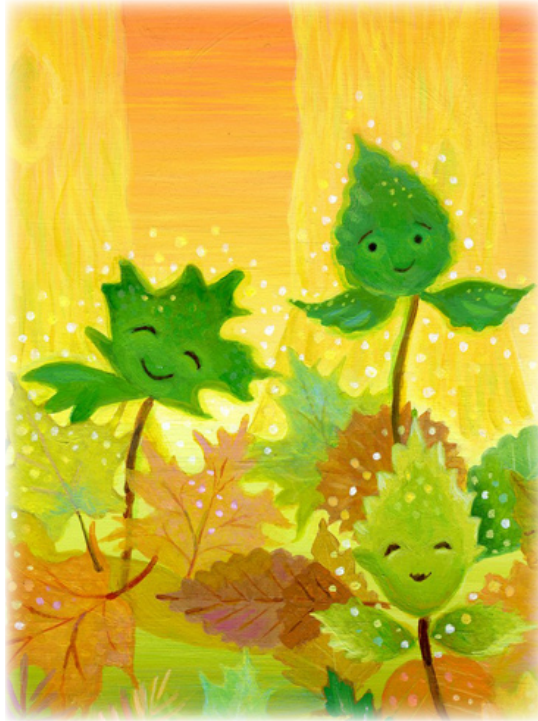
- Discuss how each tree displays its particular attribute. (*EXAMPLES: The Tree of **Love** is loving by cradling a bird's nest. The Tree of **Generosity** is generous by providing shade, The Tree of **Courage** is courageous by braving the wind.*)
- Give examples of the ways that human beings and animals exhibit these traits.
- Use these ten words to inspire a discussion of different ways children interact with each other in the classroom, at home, in their communities and the world at large.
- Create original artwork and writing using the individual words as prompts.
- Start a *Happiness Tree* log of the children's **acts of kindness**. Each day, add another example of kindnesses the children witness, hear about or perform themselves.

The Happiness Tree



AMAZING ADJECTIVES

*A simple oral or written
exercise to enhance
understanding of
descriptive words in poetry
and prose.*



golden, windy, wild, gritty, fragrant, bare, tender,
sturdy, leafy, warm, simple, ringing, unfurling,
feathered, soft, small, new, fearless, steady, rainy,
refreshing, quiet, good, different, trusted

- Which adjectives are your favorites? Use one in a sentence to describe a noun that interests you.
- Compose a paragraph or short poem about what makes you happy using these or your own descriptive words.

The Happiness Tree



CIRCLE STORIES

*A circle story is one that begins and ends
in the same or similar place and often
involves a journey of discovery.*

- Is *The Happiness Tree* a circle story?
- What happens at the beginning that leads to the ending?
- Describe the journey of the seedlings.
- Which friends are made along the way?

*Here is a list of the author and illustrator's
favorite circle stories:*

Grandfather Twilight by Barbara Berger

Miss Rumphius by Barbara Cooney

Chrysanthemum by Kevin Henkes

Peter Rabbit by Beatrix Potter

Are You My Mother? by P.D. Eastman

The Story of the Root Children by Sibylle van Olfers

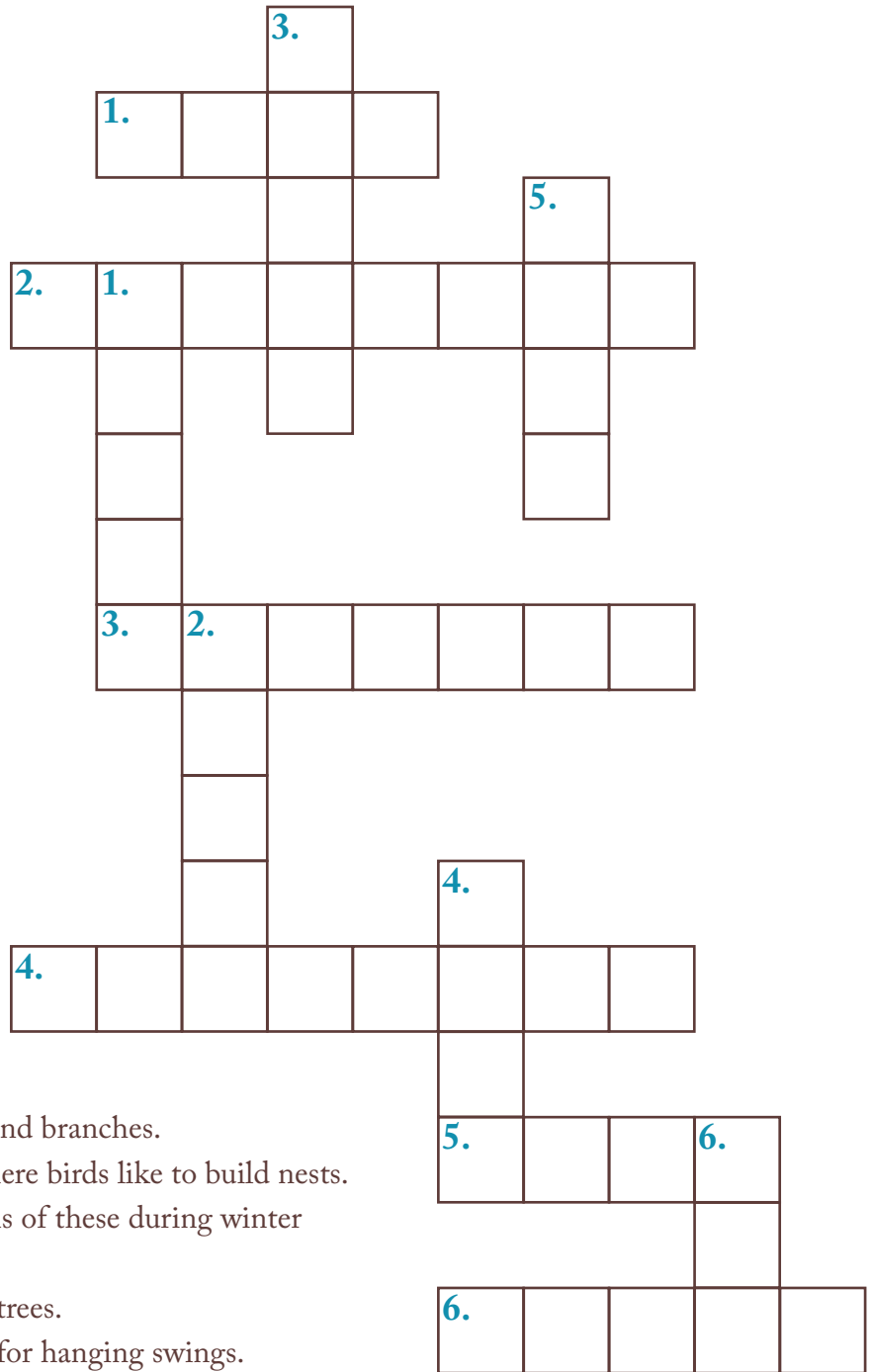
For older readers: *Seedfolks* by Sid Fleischman



The Happiness Tree



CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. The outer covering of a tree's trunk and branches.
2. The medium-sized arms of a tree where birds like to build nests.
3. Young trees. (HINT: The acorn dreams of these during winter in *The Happiness Tree*!)
4. A natural container of seeds of pine trees.
5. A large arm of a tree ~ a great place for hanging swings.
6. Something cool that tree shadows provide.

DOWN

1. The parts of the tree that live underground and drink water.
2. The fruit of the oak tree, containing a single seed. (HINT: The first character we meet in *The Happiness Tree*.)
3. The part of the tree that's nice to hug.
4. Another name for earth or dirt.
5. The part of the tree that takes in sunlight for nourishment.
6. A small bump on a stem or branch that will become a leaf or blossom.

The Happiness Tree



CROSSWORD

ANSWER KEY

ACROSS

1. Bark
2. Branches
3. Saplings
4. Pinecone
5. Limb
6. Shade

DOWN

1. Roots
2. Acorn
3. Trunk
4. Soil
5. Leaf
6. Bud

The Happiness Tree



SET THE STAGE

Perform
The Happiness Tree
as a play!



Adapt the text of the book as dialogue for the characters. Choose actors to play the parts of the acorn, seeds, saplings and mature trees. Suggest the children write their own parts for the fireflies, birds and other wildlife. The tree index works as it's own play, focusing on the scientific aspects of our ten tree friends.

YOU WILL NEED

- ☞ Costumes (*optional*). These can vary from simple to elaborate.
- ☞ Scenery (*optional*). Use the artwork as your guide.
- ☞ Scripts. Available upon request from andreaalban@me.com

Please photograph your play so that we may share it on our website.



TREE TRIPS

*Suggestions for exploring
the outdoor world of trees*

- Explore the grounds of your **school** or **neighborhood park**. See how many species are growing locally.
- Visit a **state or national park** and arrange a tour with a ranger for their wealth of tree knowledge.
- Survey the stock selection at your local **nursery** and ask the staff tree expert to guide your visit.
- Study specimen trees at a **botanical garden**.
- Visit an **apple orchard** any time of year for living lessons about the cycle of a tree's life.
- Spend a day at a sustainable **tree farm** and take part in their educational activities for children.



The Happiness Tree



LEAF PRINTS



A simple art project emphasizing shape, texture and imaginative use of color.

YOU WILL NEED:

- 🍃 Heavy white paper or card stock
- 🍃 Paints
- 🍃 Brushes
- 🍃 Newspaper
- 🍃 Freshly fallen leaves



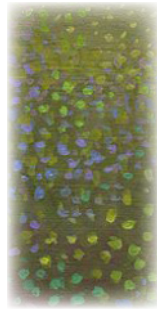
1. Plan your leaf design.
2. Keep your paint fairly thick.
3. Brush paint on the underside of the leaf, covering it thoroughly.
4. Place the painted side of the leaf down on your paper.
5. Cover with newspaper and carefully rub.
6. Remove newspaper and lift leaf.
7. Repeat using various leaves and different colors of paint as you build your picture.
8. Let your picture dry thoroughly.

Frame your picture or put it in your nature scrapbook or journal.

The Happiness Tree



BARK RUBBING



An easy outdoor activity engages the children's sense of touch and encourages observation.

YOU WILL NEED

- ❧ Thin paper
- ❧ Crayons without wrappers or colored chalk
- ❧ Trees

1. Find a tree with interesting bark.
2. Press your sheet of paper against the bark.
3. Hold the paper firmly with one hand. With the other, gently rub the long side of the crayon or chalk over the paper until the bark pattern appears.

Compare your rubbing with those from other trees.

Save your rubbing for your nature scrapbook or journal.

(This activity also works well with leaves.)

The Happiness Tree



◆◆◆◆◆ RESOURCES ◆◆◆◆◆

Recommended Websites

www.childrenandnature.org

www.rootsandshoots.org (*Jane Goodall Institute*)

www.greenhour.org (*National Wildlife Federation*)

www.ahs.org (*American Horticultural Society*)

www.americanforests.org

www.arborday.org

www.erthnxt.org

Recommended Reading

FOR TEACHERS:

The Last Child in the Woods by Richard Louv

FOR CHILDREN:

Wangari's Trees of Peace by Jeanette Winter

The Lorax By Dr. Seuss

The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein

Oak Tree by Gordon Morrison

A Tree's Wish by Allison Byrd

Also Recommended ...

The Man Who Planted Trees, an animated film by Frederic Back
based on the story by Jean Giono