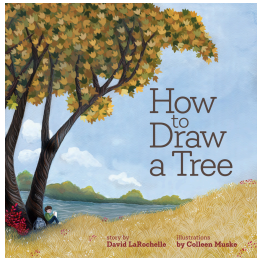


TEACHER'S GUIDE



How to Draw a Tree

Story by David LaRochelle
Illustrations by Colleen Muske

\$18.95, hardcover
32 pages, 10 x 10 inches
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Scan for additional
classroom activities

The key to drawing is to understand your subject. *How to Draw a Tree* invites readers of all ages to go out into nature and use their senses to learn about their tree before they begin to draw.

ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION PROMPTS

- Colleen Muske's beautiful illustrations contain lots of hidden details. Did you spot the tree names hidden in the pictures? How many times does the little black bird appear? What other animals can you find? When you draw your own tree, what extra details might you add?
- As you look at the pages, where in the country (or world) do you think each scene takes place? Why do you think that? Look up each tree species on the internet to find the region where that tree grows.
- Whether you are an artist or an author, noticing details is important. From where you are right now, what are three things you can hear, three things you can feel, and three things that others might not notice that you can see? Later in the day, try the same exercise from another spot. Are your answers different?
- Go on a tree hunt! Take a walk in your neighborhood and count how many different trees you can name. A tree identification book from the library or a plant ID app for your phone can help you learn the names of trees you don't know yet.
- From making oxygen to sheltering wild animals, trees are nature's superheroes! Brainstorm different ways that trees help our world. Can you think of ten? Twenty? More?
- Surprise your friends with a leaf letter! Collect large leaves and press them between the pages of a heavy book (autumn leaves are especially nice). You might want to sandwich them between two sheets of paper before putting them in the book. When the leaves are flat and dry, use a fine tip permanent marker to write notes on them. Slide your leaf letters into envelopes and your friends won't be-leaf the creative mail they receive!

David LaRochelle has been writing and illustrating award-winning children's books for over thirty years. He lives in White Bear Lake, Minnesota. **Colleen Muske** is the writer and illustrator of *Linden: The Story of a Tree*. She lives in Stillwater, Minnesota.

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