



The Pine Tree

Based on a fairy tale by Hans Christian Andersen

How does a tree change as it grows?

A young pine tree lived in a great forest near a clearing. He enjoyed watching the animals, feeling the morning sun on his branches, and resting in the cool afternoon shadows. The pine tree was very happy with his life.

One day a truck burst into the clearing. A logger cut down several of the **enormous** adult pine trees. *Whack! Whack! Whack!* went his ax. Then the logger loaded up the trees and drove away.

"I wonder where my tree friends are going," thought the little pine tree. Then he spoke to three young sparrows sitting on a nearby branch. "Would you please follow those big trees?" he asked. "I want to know what will happen to them." The sparrows shook their heads in agreement and flew away.

Interactive Read Aloud

Oral Vocabulary

enormous

Define: Something that is *enormous* is very large.

Example: That elephant is *enormous* compared to the other animals we saw!



Ask: What is the most *enormous* thing you have ever seen?



ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

Relate to Personal Experience
Talk about children's knowledge of forests. *Ask: What animals live in the forest? What does it feel and sound like to walk in a forest? Would you enjoy living in the forest? Why or why not?*

Intensive Vocabulary Support
Use the routine on *How to Use the Interactive Read-Aloud Cards* to introduce the underlined words.



Unit 5 Week 2

The first sparrow followed one of the huge pine trees. She flew high above the tree as it rode on the truck. After a long trip, the truck finally stopped at a building near the ocean.

For many weeks, the sparrow watched the tree. Busy workers used tools to cut and shape the tree into a mast. Then they attached the mast to a large sailboat. Two days later, the boat sailed out to sea. The sparrow quickly flew back to the forest to share her news with the little pine tree.

“The big pine is now the mast of a beautiful sailboat,” she said. “I watched it sail away this morning.”

“That sounds **amazing!**” said the little pine tree. “I don’t want to be small anymore. I want to grow up so the loggers will cut *me* down, too. *I* want to be part of a sailboat. I want to have adventures on the ocean.”

The sparrow chirped back at the pine tree. “I think you should be happy where you are, right here in the forest,” she said.

Interactive Read Aloud

Oral Vocabulary

amazing

Define: Something that is *amazing* is surprising and wonderful.

Example: The number of stars in the clear night sky was *amazing*.



Ask: How do you feel when you see something that is *amazing*?



ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

Use Illustrations Display Card 2 and guide children to draw a picture of a boat with a mast. Then pair children and have them share and explain their drawings with their partners.



The second and third sparrows returned to the forest after a few months. They told the pine tree what they had seen.

“I followed two of the big trees to a factory and then to a house,” said the second sparrow. “The trees were used to make a wooden window seat. Every night I sat outside a family’s home as a mother, a father, and two children sat on the seat and read stories together.”

Then the third sparrow chirped about what she had seen. “I followed the rest of the trees,” she said. “I flew far away to a dusty lumberyard. I waited for a long time to see what would happen to the trees, but nothing did. The trees are still stacked up in a pile, and they are starting to rot away.”

The pine tree thought for a moment. “I wish *I* could be made into a window seat. I would love to hear stories and children’s laughter every night. But I **imagine** that lying in a pile in a lumberyard wouldn’t be very fun.”

“Better to stay where you are,” said one sparrow.

Interactive Read Aloud

Oral Vocabulary

imagine

Define: When you *imagine* something, you see it in your mind.

Example: The teacher could hardly *imagine* what a quiet classroom would be like.



Ask: Do you find it easy or difficult to *imagine* something that you have never seen? Why or why not?



ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

Use Illustrations Show children Cards 2 and 3 and guide them to talk about the sparrows’ experiences in the illustrations. Ask: *What happened to the trees? What is similar about how people have used them? What is different? If you were the little pine tree, what would you rather become and why?*



Unit 5 Week 2

Three more years passed. The seasons came and went, and the young pine tree changed. It grew twice as tall as it was when the logger first came to the forest. It began to **develop** thick, brown cones and seeds. Even its needles became longer.

Then on a spring day the three sparrows visited the pine tree.

“Do you still wish to be cut down?” one of the sparrows asked.

“No,” the pine tree replied. “I am much wiser now. If I were to become a ship, I would miss the birds and the other animals here. If I were to become a window seat, I would miss the fresh air and sunshine. And if somebody were to dump me in a lumberyard, I would never again get to feel the soft ground around my roots. I’m **content** here in the forest.”

“We are happy here, too,” said another sparrow. “We have explored many places, but the forest will always be our home.”

Over the years, the little pine grew into a strong, tall tree. And the logger never came to the forest again.

Interactive Read Aloud

Oral Vocabulary

develop

Define: To *develop* is to grow.

Example: Over time, tadpoles *develop* into frogs.



Ask: How do you think you will *develop* in the next year?

content

Define: When you are *content*, you feel happy and satisfied.

Example: I always feel *content* after playing at the beach.



Ask: How do babies show they are not *content*?

Retell

Help children use the pictures to retell the story.

Card 1: What is happening in this picture? Who is the main character?

Card 2: Why is the sparrow perched on top of a boat? What will the sparrow do next?

Card 3: Who are the people in the picture? What does the sparrow tell the tree?

Card 4: How does the pine tree feel at the end of the story? How has the pine tree changed?