

English Organiser – The Great Kapok Tree

Important information

Plot

In the Amazon rainforest, a man is chopping down a great Kapok tree. Exhausted from his labours, he puts down his axe and rests. As he sleeps, the animals who live in the tree plead with him not to destroy their world.

Themes

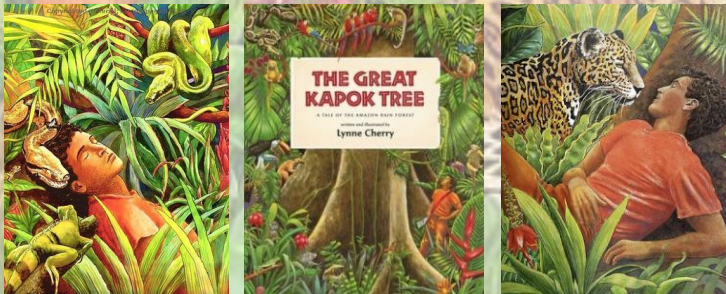
Rainforest, deforestation, endangered species, beauty of nature.

Setting

The story is set in the Amazon rainforest and is told through a mixture of description and direct speech from a variety of animals. The beauty of the rainforest is shown both through powerful vocabulary and detailed watercolour pictures.

Context

Lynne Cherry's rich coloured-pencil and watercolour drawings buzz with life. She totally engages readers' attention and senses through vivid detail, dramatic perspective and lifelike accuracy – School Library Journal



What can this book teach us?

This book can teach us about the rainforest, deforestation and animals.

Quotes

"Senhor, this is a tree of miracles"

"I fly from tree to tree and flower to flower collecting pollen. In this way I pollinate the trees and flowers throughout the rainforest."

"Where once there was life and beauty only black and smouldering ruins remain."
'He swung back his arm as though to strike the tree'

Writing genres covered

Letter writing

Persuasive writing

Name of book: The Great Kapok Tree

Date published: 1990

Author: Lynne Cherry

Characters

Senhor	The man who is instructed to cut down the Kapok tree, but falls asleep. Brazilian spelling of señor.
Animals	A variety of animals who live in the Kapok tree and try to persuade Senhor not to cut it down.
Child	A child from the Yanomamo tribe who lives in the rainforest.
Larger man	The man who instructs Senhor to cut down the Kapok tree.
<u>Key word</u>	<u>Definition</u>
Squawking	to utter a loud, harsh cry, as a duck or other fowl when frightened
Lulled	to cause someone to feel calm or to feel they want to sleep
Troupe	any group of people working together
Smouldering	the process of burning slowly with smoke but no flame
Hesitated	to pause before you do or say something