



Because of an Acorn

Lola M. Schaefer , Adam R. Schaefer , Frann Preston-Gannon (Illustrations)

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Because of an acorn, a tree grows, a bird nests, a seed becomes a flower. Enchanting die-cuts illustrate the vital connections between the layers of an ecosystem in this magical book. Wander down the forest path to learn how every tree, flower, plant, and animal connect to one another in spiraling circles of life. An acorn is just the beginning.

Because of an Acorn Details

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From Reader Review Because of an Acorn for online ebook

Amanda Armstrong says

This book very simply depicts the circle of life and the food chain when it comes to nature. It starts with an acorn and breaks down how that single, tiny acorn can effect an ecosystem so greatly. It takes the reader through many different organisms in a forest, animals and plants alike, and shows how each one connects the one before it. While the story is very simple with few words, the end of the book gives a more detailed description of what an ecosystem is and why it is important for every inhabitant to be there. It also provides the reader with ways to help preserve the environment around them.

I loved this book! First of all, the illustrations were incredible and I liked how at the beginning and end of the story, there was a hole in the page connecting to the picture behind it. I loved how simple this book was but how at the end, it gives a more in depth look at what each piece of the ecosystem contributes. This makes it beneficial for all ages! The authors said this was a book for, "naturalists, young and old" and I found that to be very true.

I would use this book in a therapy session maybe focusing on cause and effect or even just for a beginning reader. During a session working on cause and effect, the client could make a chart connecting each piece of the ecosystem to the next until it comes back around to the acorn. This book provides a great opportunity to get the client outside. Maybe after reading the book, the client could go outside and try to find pieces of their own ecosystem (i.e. a mushroom or a rock) and discuss how it could aid in the circle of life. This book could also be used to practice inferencing. Many of the pages have a picture of the animal or plant that will come after it so the client could use inference skills to try and guess what might come next.

Jaclyn Golino says

Because of an Acorn by Lola M. Schaefer is a non-fiction children's book designed for 4-6-year olds; it has won a Charlotte Zolotow Honor and a Children's Choice Book Award. The story outlines the various connections between the layers in the ecosystem by following the cycle of an acorn. I rated this book five stars based off its ability to effectively incorporate literary elements. To begin with, the plot was compelling yet simple. From page to page, it builds upon each necessary part in the ecosystem that provides for the other; one little acorn can turn into a tree, then provide for a bird which then plants a seed that sprouts a flower. The characters within the story could be considered the bird, snake, tree, acorn, seed, or flower. Although they are not in human form, they play a vital role in the plot; they are the organisms focused on in creating the ecosystem. This is effective because we can read textually and see visibly the layered relationship that exists in a forest. The theme represented in the story is that nature is one cohesive system that relies on many parts of it to sustain it; creating a chain effect. The language in the text is repetitive: "because of an acorn a tree" "because of a chipmunk a snake" "because of a snake a hawk". It emphasizes the role of the different parts of the ecosystem that are in need for the other parts; their existence relies on the previous organisms' existence. The illustrations in the book are a collage of paintings. There are many earthy colors used within this, including various shades of green, brown and blue. The colors give a colloquial feeling while the mix of 2D and 3D images create a sense of realism and fantasy. I believe this book would appeal to children because of its superior illustrations that depict an accurate relationship within the ecosystem. When working with children one could use this book to teach the children about the environment and its many layers.

Katy says

A neat little book that deals with the circle of life in easy to understand words and pictures.

Miss Sarah says

A simple baby/toddler book about all the things that happen because of an acorn dropping. Clear text and simple bright pictures.

Steve H says

The circle of life, somewhat cryptically examined through mixed media illustrations and very few words. I was initially excited to see the topic addressed for children, but this book will definitely need some more mature interpretation to explain The Acorn> tree> bird> seed> flower> fruit> chipmunk>snake>hawk>acorn process. The simple artwork is fairly engaging and could be a subject for conversation with young readers.

Deania says

The book is simple and very easy to read. You learn what the acorn becomes, how it travels. What kind of acorns are there? The book has information about what certain animals eat and why we need to plant more acorns and what can we do to help our ecosystem.

Darshana Khiani (Flowering Minds) says

Nice simple introduction to the idea of interconnectedness and ecosystem, good for preschoolers through KG.

Autumn Kopesky says

Summary:

In this books, it talks about what all happens because of an acorn. Such as, a tree grows. This book goes through several things that acorns help with in the environment.

Evaluation:

I think this is a great book for students to understand cycles of life. For example, an acorn falls and it will help a tree grow. The tree is where birds can build their nests, and so on a so forth. This is a good book for students in lower grades to read to understand cycles of life.

Teaching Point:

This would be a good book to read in science. Students will be able to understand how everything connects in the environment. This can be taught by as the teacher is reading the book, the create a picture on the board to demonstrate how everything is all connecting. The students can then think of something that they know connects.

Ashleigh Best says

"Because of an Acorn" is a simple, yet intriguing book. This book shows the "life cycle" of a forest, and how each piece affects the development of a natural forest. "Because of an Acorn" shows that even the smallest element (the acorn) can affect the largest element (the forest as a whole). This is a great book to use with children because it teaches the lesson that even small people or things can make a big difference. This is important to teach to young children, especially. This book, as a result, would be great to use within an early childhood classroom.

One of the other things that is nice about this book is that it is very easy to read. By the end of their Kindergarten year, a child could probably read this book on their own. Despite this, "Because of an Acorn" would still be great to use in any subject area, especially in science.

Carly says

Simple yet beautiful

Samantha says

A poetic look at the interconnectedness of an ecosystem.

Back matter gives more information about the location of this particular ecosystem and provides ideas for children to adopt to positively impacts forests.

Great read aloud for PreK-2.

Danielle says

Wonderful concept that builds and flows—and that ending! Plus, info at the back to get kids caring about trees, ecosystems, and how they can help them.

Elizabeth says

3.5 stars. Loved the illustrations and circular text.

Heather says

With mixed media illustrations that evoke the collages of Lois Ehlert, this picture book introduces the concept of the forest ecosystem and the food chain to young readers.

Janet says

A beautifully illustrated title for children to learn the life cycle of the forest ecosystem. Well done.
