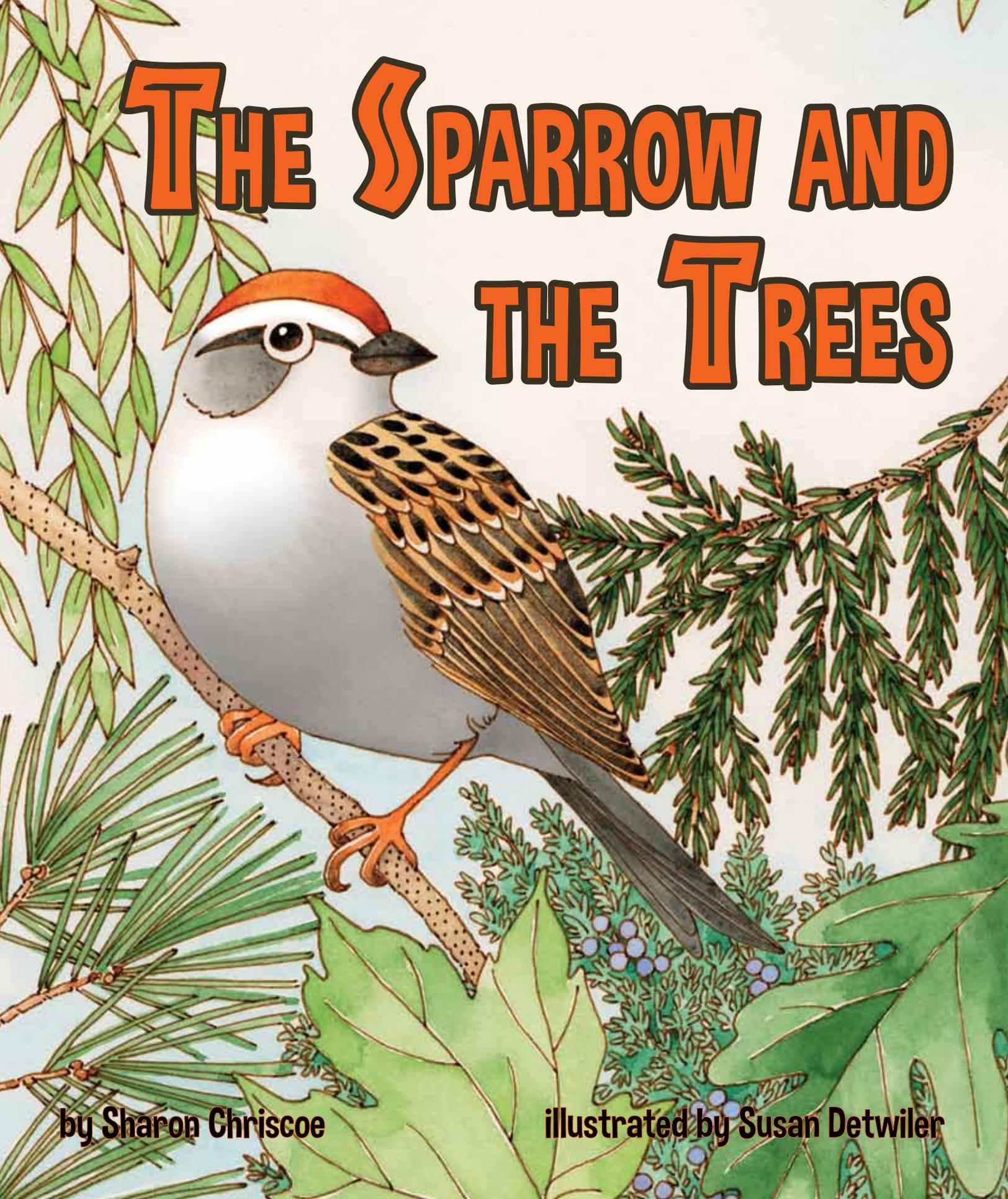


THE SPARROW AND THE TREES



by Sharon Chriscoe

illustrated by Susan Detwiler

THE SPARROW AND THE TREES

The Sparrow family is ready to fly south for the winter, but Papa's wing is hurt and he cannot make the trip. He asks the trees for help. One by one, the mighty, leafy trees of the forest say no! Will any of the trees help Papa Sparrow? What will happen to the selfish trees that turned him away? Discover why some trees lose their leaves in winter in this retelling of a *pourquoi* tale.

It's so much more than a picture book . . . this book is specifically designed to be both a fun-to-read story and a launch pad for discussions and learning. We encourage adults to do the activities with the young children in their lives both at home and in the classroom. Free online resources and support at www.ArbordalePublishing.com include:

- For Creative Minds as seen in the book (in English & Spanish):
 - Chipping Sparrow Migration
 - Bird Watching Tips: Chipping Sparrow
 - The Birds and the Trees
 - Tree Adaptations
 - Evergreen or Deciduous
- Teaching Activities (to do at home or school):
 - Reading Questions
 - Language Arts
 - Science
 - Math
 - Geography
 - Coloring Pages
- Interactive Quizzes: Reading Comprehension, For Creative Minds, and Math Word Problems
- English and Spanish Audiobooks
- Related Websites
- Aligned to State and Core Standards
- Accelerated Reader and Reading Counts! Quizzes
- Lexile and Fountas & Pinnell Reading Levels

eBooks with Auto-Flip, Auto-Read, and selectable English and Spanish text and audio are available for purchase online.

Thanks to Peter McGowan of the US Fish and Wildlife Service for reviewing the accuracy of the information in this book.

Sharon Chriscoe discovered her passion for writing at the age of 32, after watching a litter of stray kittens play on her porch. She is a graduate of The Institute of Children's Literature and a member of Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. *The Sparrow and The Trees* is Sharon's debut picture book. Sharon lives in North Carolina with her husband and their three grown children. Visit her website at sharonchriscoebooks.com.

Susan Detwiler is the illustrator of several books for children including the award-winning books *On the Move* (NSTA-CBC Outstanding Trade Book); *Big Cat, Little Kitty* (Mom's Choice Awards Gold); *Pandas' Earthquake Escape* (Mom's Choice Awards Gold); and *One Wolf Howls* (Silver Nautilus Book Award) for Arbordale. She is the author/illustrator of *Fine Life For A Country Mouse*. Susan is a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators. Books have always been a source of joy in her life, and as a child she particularly loved books with beautiful illustrations. Susan was educated at the Maryland Institute College of Art and lives with her artist husband in Baltimore. Visit her website at susandetwiler.com.

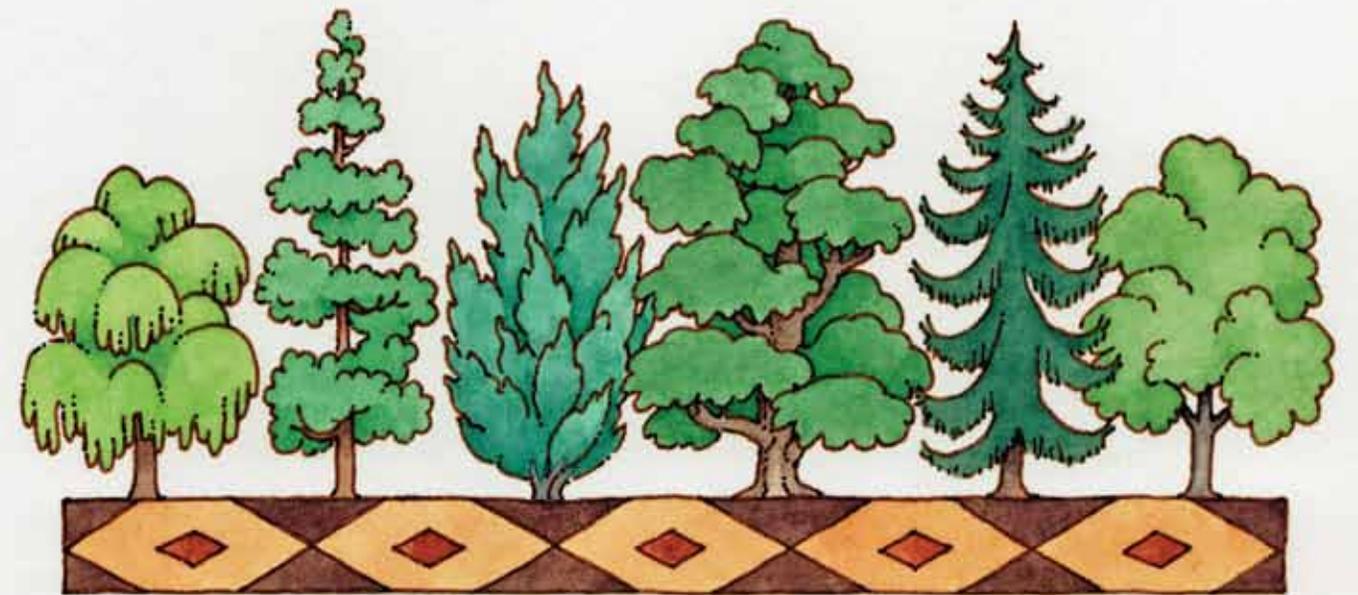


Sharon Chriscoe



Susan Detwiler

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A long time ago, when the world was new, all the trees kept their leaves during the wintertime. The leaves helped the trees stay warm. But one winter, that all changed.

An illustration of a Sparrow family on a tree branch. On the left, a male Sparrow with a red cap and grey breast is perched on a branch, looking towards a smaller, speckled Sparrow. On the right, a female Sparrow with a red cap and grey breast is perched on a branch, looking towards the male. Above her, two more Sparrows are perched on a higher branch, one with its wings spread as if flying. The background shows a light blue sky and green foliage. A decorative border with a repeating diamond pattern surrounds the text box.

As winter approached, the Sparrow family prepared to fly south. But Papa Sparrow had injured himself the week before and couldn't fly far. Wintertime was cold and harsh. Papa Sparrow feared for his family's safety. So he sent them south without him.

"The trees will provide warm shelter for me," he assured his family.



The rest of the Sparrow family headed south. Papa Sparrow fluttered over to Maple. "Hello, Maple. Can you help me, please?" whispered Papa Sparrow. "Help you? With what?" replied Maple. "My wing is hurt and I could not fly south with my family. Can I take shelter in your beautiful, bushy leaves for the winter?" asked Papa Sparrow. Maple drew her leaves in tight. "I do not know you. And I like to sleep during the cold, winter days. Birds are always singing and chirping and making lots of noise," said Maple. "You may not stay for the winter in my beautiful, bushy leaves."



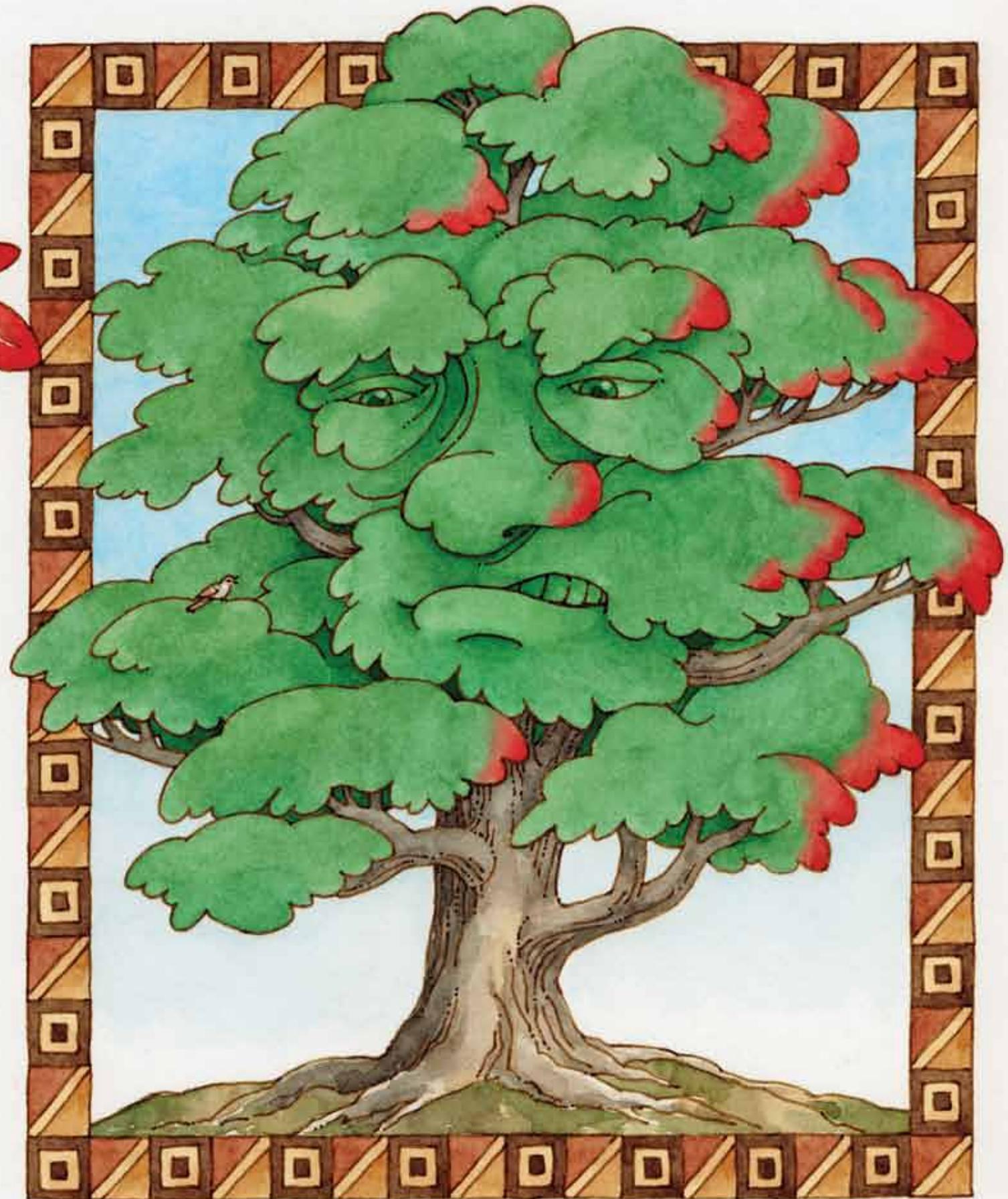
Papa Sparrow was deeply saddened by Maple's words. He hung his head and fluttered away. *Oak is old and wise, maybe he will let me stay with him for the winter,* thought Papa Sparrow.

"Hello, Oak. Can you help me, please?" whispered Papa Sparrow.

"Help you? With what?" replied Oak.

"My wing is hurt and I could not fly south with my family. Can I take shelter in your big, strong branches for the winter?" asked Papa Sparrow.

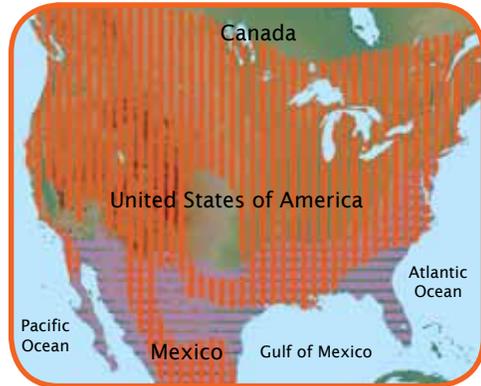
"*Grrr.*" Oak growled. "I do not know you. And how do I know you won't eat all of my acorns? Birds are always looking for food," said Oak. "You may not stay for the winter in my big, strong branches."



For Creative Minds

This For Creative Minds educational section contains activities to engage children in learning while making it fun at the same time. The activities build on the underlying subjects introduced in the story. While older children may be able to do these activities on their own, we encourage adults to work with the young children in their lives. Even if the adults have long forgotten or never learned this information, they can still work through the activities and be experts in their children's eyes! Exposure to these concepts at a young age helps to build a strong foundation for easier comprehension later in life. This section may be photocopied or printed from our website by the owner of this book for educational, non-commercial uses. Cross-curricular teaching activities for use at home or in the classroom, interactive quizzes, and more are available online. Go to www.ArbordalePublishing.com and click on the book's cover to explore all the links.

Chipping Sparrow Migration



Chipping sparrows live in North America. Their summer breeding grounds cover **most of the United States and parts of Canada and Mexico**. In the fall, chipping sparrows travel (migrate) to the **southern United States and Mexico**. They travel in flocks with other migrating birds, especially other sparrow species.

There are a few places in the continental US where chipping sparrows do not live. But even in these areas, they can be seen during their migration.

Bird Watching Tips: Chipping Sparrow

Chipping sparrows have rust-orange feathers on the tops of their heads and a black line across their eyes. These colors are brightest during the summer breeding season and fade at other times of the year.

Can you spot any chipping sparrows? Use these tips to look for signs of chipping sparrows in your area.

- In the fall and winter, chipping sparrows often search for food (forage) in groups. Watch for flocks on the ground near trees.
- Listen for a long, loud trill or small *chip* sounds.
- Chipping sparrows like to live in parks, neighborhoods, pine forests, and open woodlands.
- Female chipping sparrows build nests 3-10 feet (1-3 meters) off the ground. Their nests are usually in evergreen trees, but sometimes in deciduous trees. Most nests take about 3 to 4 days to build. Chipping sparrow nests are loose cups of roots, grasses, and animal hair hidden in the leaves at the end of a branch. After finishing the nest, the female lays 2-7 sky blue eggs with a few dark blotches.



The Birds and the Trees



A **habitat** is a place where a plant or animal lives and grows. All living things work in their habitat to meet their **basic needs**: food, water, air and shelter. After meeting their basic needs, living things need to make new living things like themselves (reproduce). Living things also need to protect themselves from harm.

Plants and animals have to share their habitat. Birds and trees help each other in different ways. They can help each other meet their basic needs, reproduce, or protect themselves.

Read the sentences below and decide whether the action helps the birds or the trees.

1. Birds eat seeds, flowers, and berries that grow on trees.
2. Birds carry a tree's seeds to different places so they can grow into new trees.
3. Tree branches provide a place for birds to build their nests.
4. Birds protect trees by eating insects that could harm the trees.
5. Trees shelter birds from the weather.
6. Trees have nooks and holes where birds can hide food to eat later.



Helps birds: 1, 3, 5, 6
Helps trees: 2, 4

Tree Adaptations

All living things need energy to live and grow. Some animals eat other animals for food (carnivores). Other animals eat plants for food (herbivores). But plants don't eat animals or other plants. Plants make their own sugary food, through a process called **photosynthesis**. Plants need three things to make their food: energy from the sun, water, and carbon dioxide.

Plant leaves absorb energy from sunlight. Plants have roots that take in water from the ground. Carbon dioxide is a gas in the air. Leaves have small openings that let in carbon dioxide. But these openings can also let water out. Different types of trees have different adaptations so they don't lose too much water through their leaves.

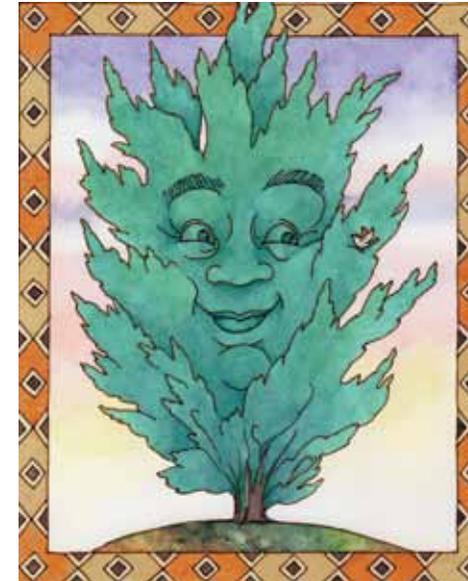


Trees that drop their leaves are called **deciduous** trees. Deciduous trees generally have broad, flat leaves. These leaves can absorb lots of carbon dioxide and energy from the sun. But they also let more water evaporate into the air. In the winter, the weather is often cold and dry. When the air is dry, plants lose more water through their leaves. Deciduous trees drop their leaves in the fall to protect against water-loss. When the spring rains come, they grow new leaves for the year.

Trees that keep their leaves all year round are called **evergreen** trees. Evergreens usually have small, needle-like leaves. Because the leaves are so small and narrow, the tree needs lots of needles to gather enough carbon dioxide and energy from the sun. These leaves have a thick, waxy coat. This coat protects the leaves against water-loss. Evergreen trees keep their leaves through the cold, dry winter.

Evergreen or Deciduous

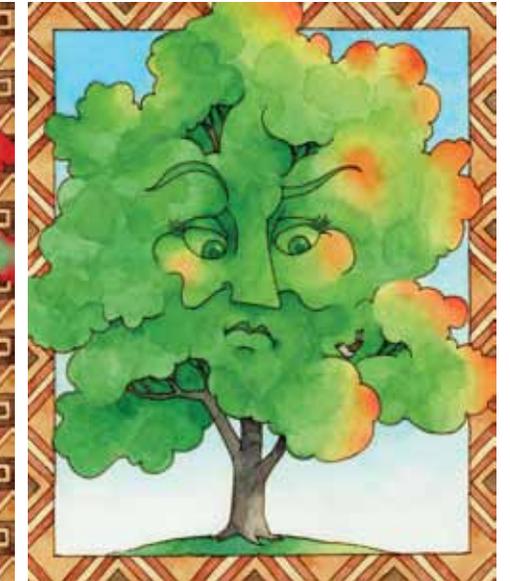
Use clues from the story to sort the trees below into evergreen trees or deciduous trees. Answers are below.



juniper



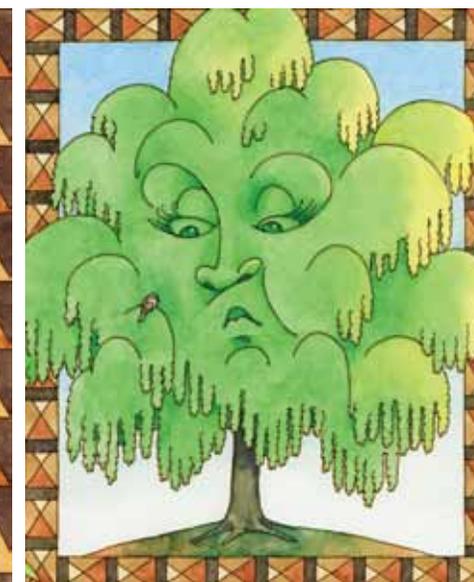
oak



maple



pine



willow



spruce

Evergreen: juniper, pine, spruce
Deciduous: oak, maple, willow

This is an adaptation of a Native American folktale. Earliest sources, dating back to the beginning of the 20th century, do not name the story's culture of origin. Modern sources commonly attribute the story to the Cherokee. However, through our rigorous vetting process, we have confirmed with storytellers, historians, and cultural specialists from both the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and the Cherokee Nation that they are unaware of this story or its origins.

Folktales are part of how people express their own culture. They also provide a way for people to learn about the history and values of cultures different from their own. When a story becomes separated from its culture, this opportunity is lost on both sides.

To my wonderful husband, Ricky, who always provides me with an endless supply of warmth, kindness, and love.—SC
For Herman, with love.—SD
Thanks to Peter McGowan of the US Fish and Wildlife Service for reviewing the accuracy of the information in this book.

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