

# Re-imagining a Hopeful Future through the Storybook 'The Tree of Hope'.

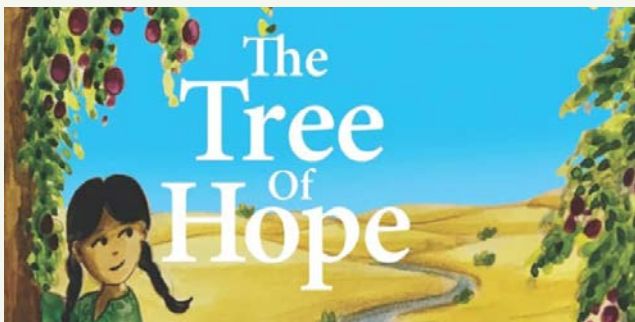


## What is the purpose of this activity?

This activity is designed for teachers and adults working with children aged 7-9 (Year 3 and 4, Key Stage 1). It aims to help children understand the importance of trees for the world, the benefit human beings get from trees, and how trees protect human beings. It also encourages children to think about the future and foster hope for our planet and environment.

### What is it the activity about?

This activity is about a storybook called 'The Tree of Hope' written by Kehkashan Basu. The storybook helps children develop their understanding of the importance of trees for the planet. It also engages children in creating stories about their favourite trees. Download the storybook, The Tree of Hope, by [clicking this link](#).



### What does the activity involve?

The activity begins with reading the storybook 'The Tree of Hope' to the children. If you are working with children individually or in small groups, provide each child or group with a printed copy of the storybook. Before reading, ask the children questions about the book's front cover. The following steps across the page are recommended for reading this storybook to children and engaging them in activities.



Reading the storybook 'The Tree of Hope'.

Read the storybook 'The Tree of Hope' to the children in small groups. The storybook can be read by an adult and by any child from the group. You may decide not to just read the storybook but aim to focus on different aspects of the text (e.g. the narrative, the illustrations, the characters etc).

**You may discuss the following questions with the children:**

1

How does it feel to be in the hot desert?

What are the children doing in the story?

2

3

Why is it difficult for the children to play outdoors in the afternoon in a hot desert?

What is the tree doing for the children in the story?

4

5

How did the tree become important for children? (Refer to the storybook (page 3) and help children explore how the children in the story were unable to play outside in the hot sun, with the presence of the tree (page 10), they can now enjoy playing outside under its shade, which provides them with a cool and comfortable environment.)

6

What other things started coming to the desert because of the tree? (Refer to the storybook and help children explore "how birds started coming to the tree and became friends with the children in the story (page 11). You may also talk about clouds, rain, and water, how the air became cooler in the desert because of the tree.)

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## Thinking about a Future with Hope and Trees

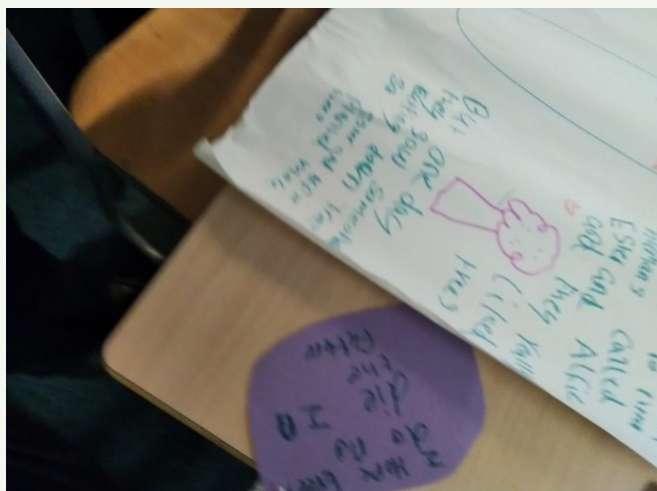
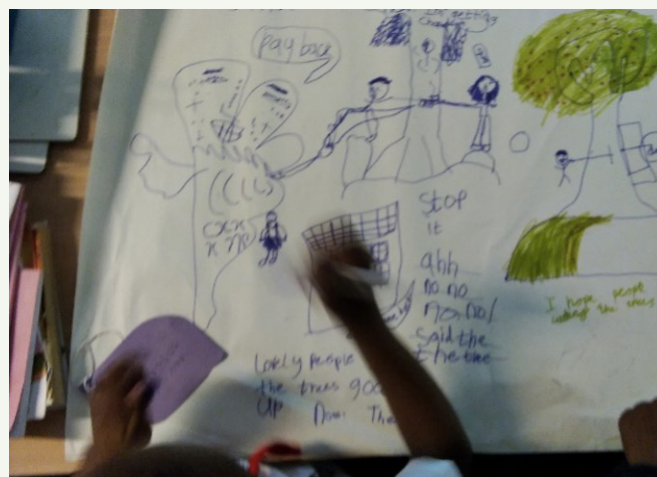
Once you have read the storybook, ask the children to think about trees in their home gardens, in their schools or in nearby parks. Invite them to share stories of their favourite trees, either verbally or in writing. You could also ask the children to draw pictures of their favourite trees or act out being their favourite trees.

Ask the children to think about the future of their favourite trees. They could draw or write one or two wishes for the futures of their trees.

You can support the children by asking the following guiding questions:

- 1 What will happen to your favourite trees in the future?
- 2 How would you like your favourite trees to grow?
- 3 What actions will you take to protect your favourite trees?
- 4 What actions will you take to ensure your trees grow safely?

Below, we have included examples of our work with children in a school. These examples feature stories of children's wishes and hopes for the futures of their favourite trees.



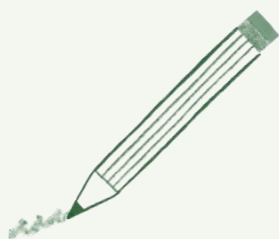
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## Activity Key



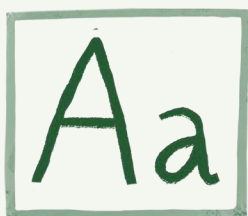
Discuss



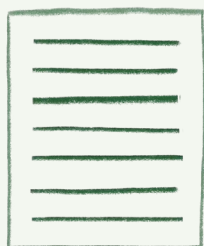
Draw



Listen



Write



Read

This resource has been created by the 'Voices of the Future' project team. The project aimed to explore children's experiences and knowledge about urban treescapescapes (<https://treescapescapes-voices.mmu.ac.uk>). The resource is based on the 'The Tree of Hope' research activity, which was carried out in collaboration with Year 3 and 4 (Key Stage 1) children and teachers in two primary schools. These include the Church of England: The School of Resurrection in Manchester, and Blackrod Primary School in Bolton.

This work was supported by the Natural Environment Research Council [NE/V021370/1]. Thanks are due to the Church of England: The School of Resurrection in Manchester, Blackrod Primary School in Bolton, and the Voices of the Future project team, 2025. Resources made with design and illustration support from Maisy Summer.



Individual



Pairs



Group

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### What is this activity about?

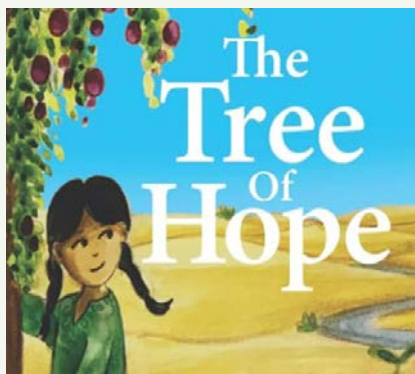
This activity involves reading a storybook called 'The Tree of Hope'. This is a story about a tree that helps children in a desert. The storybook is written by a young author, Kehkashan Basu.

### Activities

## How to Read the Storybook 'The Tree of Hope':

### STEP 1: READING THE STORYBOOK

Read the storybook 'The Tree of Hope' on your own or in small groups. You may read the story all the way through, or you may stop at certain points to discuss the story in your groups.



### Why would you read this storybook? ?!

You would read this storybook to explore how trees protect humans and other living beings including animals, insects, and birds. If you are reading the storybook on a tablet or laptop, you can download a copy of the book by clicking this [link](#).



While reading the story, look at the pictures and the main characters. You might want to consider the following questions:



What is the tree doing for the children in the story?



How did the tree become important for the children? (Clue: What could the children do outside that they couldn't before they planted the tree?)



How did the tree change the atmosphere in the hot desert?



What are the children doing in the story?

Why is it difficult for children to play outdoors in the afternoon in a hot desert?



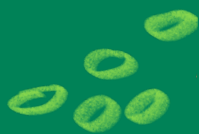
What other things started coming to the desert because of the tree? (Clue: Think about other animals and plants.)



Did people in the desert like the tree? (Clue: How did people feel about the desert after the trees grew?)

STEP 2: THINKING  
ABOUT A FUTURE WITH  
HOPE AND TREES

?!



Once you have read the storybook, think about trees in your home garden, at your school, or in nearby parks. Do you have a favourite tree? Think about a story you could tell about your favourite tree.

Are you ready to  
share stories  
about your  
favourite tree?



You might like to tell  
the story. Write  
it down, or draw  
a picture of your  
favourite tree.

NOW, THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE OF YOUR FAVOURITE TREE.  
DRAW OR WRITE ONE OR TWO WISHES FOR ITS FUTURE.



What do you think will  
happen to your favourite  
tree in the future?



How would you like your  
favourite tree to grow?



What will you need to do to  
protect your favourite tree?

