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Tap The Magic Tree



Synopsis

The acclaimed interactive picture book about the changing seasons. “Like Hervé Tullet’s Press Here, Matheson’s Tap the Magic Tree proves you don’t need apps for interactivity,” praised the New York Times. Every book needs you to turn the pages. But not every book needs you to tap it, shake it, jiggle it, or even blow it a kiss. Innovative and timeless, Tap the Magic Tree asks you to help one lonely tree change with the seasons. Now that’s interactive and magical! It begins with a bare brown tree. But tap that tree, turn the page, and one bright green leaf has sprouted! Tap again—one, two, three, four—and four more leaves have grown on the next page. Pat, clap, wiggle, jiggle, and see blossoms bloom, apples grow, and the leaves swirl away with the autumn breeze. The collage-and-watercolor art evokes the bright simplicity of Lois Ehlert and Eric Carle and the interactive concept will delight fans of Pat the Bunny. Combining a playful spirit and a sense of wonder about nature, Christie Matheson has created a new modern classic that is a winner in every season—and every story time! And don’t miss the follow-up, Touch the Brightest Star!

Book Information

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Greenwillow Books; 2nd edition (August 27, 2013)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 9.5 x 0.2 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 174 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #13,203 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #21 in Books > Children’s Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Environment #43 in Books > Children’s Books > Activities, Crafts & Games > Interactive Adventures #242 in Books > Children’s Books > Science, Nature & How It Works

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

PreS-K The conceit of this clever picture book is that the changing seasons occur as if by magic. Readers are shown a bare brown tree and are implored to, “Tap it once. Turn the

page to see. As they do, green leaves appear. Next, they are told to “Rub the tree to make it warm.” That results in pale pink buds, which then form beautiful blossoms and a jiggle makes them fall to the ground. Darker leaves mingle with robust red apples, and then leaves turn color, drift away, and snow falls all around. Finally, the tree finds a new purpose as a home for a baby bird. Each change receives its own spread, and a page turn reveals another alteration to the tree’s appearance. A few words on each spread keep the emphasis on readers’ perceived control over the climate; a call to participation encourages audience involvement. “Pat the leaves gently, please. Aha! Now blow a whooshing breeze.” Spare backgrounds maintain the focus on the tree; its thick, supportive trunk remains the solid recurring note in each stark scene. Textured collages add immediacy to each spread. A natural rhythm is maintained through rolling rhymes. The subtle shifts of the seasons capture a tree that is simply a treasure to behold. Meg Smith, Cumberland County Public Library, Fayetteville, NC (c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

“There’s magic in this bare brown tree. Tap it once. Turn the page to see.” Tapping the page, and rubbing and touching starts the fun of watching a bare tree sprout one leaf, then many, then buds, flowers, and finally apples. After jiggling, wiggling, and swishing the pages, the flower petals fall and apples appear; shaking the book causes the apples to drop with a “Plop! Plop! Plop!” Whooshing makes the leaves cascade, and clapping causes snowflakes to flutter down. The tree is bare and brown again, but “Be patient . . . Close your eyes and count to ten,” and the mystery begins again with two bluebirds building their nest in the spring. When each season changes, a full page of color introduces it green flows to pink to red to orange to wintery blue and white. Although simple in presentation with ample white space, the artwork provides a glorious rendition of the four seasons of a tree. No iPad is needed to make this interactive book totally satisfying. Pair with Lizi Boyd’s Inside Outside (2013), another seasonal interactive title. Preschool-Kindergarten. --Lolly Gepson

Your child will actively learn about the changing seasons through the single apple tree featured in this adorable book. The book opens with an illustration of a stark tree.

“There’s magic in this bare brown tree. Tap it once. Turn the page to see.” Turn the page and a single, bright green leaf hangs off one of the tree’s branches. This gentle book continues to ask its readers to perform several

actions: rub, touch, jiggle, wiggle, brush and "blow the tree a tiny kiss." With each action and page turn comes some magic: the tree forms buds and blooms flowers, the apples grow and plop down, the leaves turn colors, and the snow falls on the once-again bare tree. On the second-to-last page, a bird's nest containing a single blue egg is nestled in the bare tree's branches, a preview that spring is coming once again. "Close your eyes and count to ten," the book requests. On the final page the sweet baby bird has hatched and two bright green leaves have grown: "Magic! It begins again." This book was a godsend during New England's more-bitter-than-usual 2013-2014 winter. My children would ask me to read it again and again, as there is something soothing and magical about its simplicity. This is equally true of the simple act of cuddling up with your children to read, which can serve as a magical balm for the winter blues.

My youngest loves interactive books so she can be a part of the story - we have a small collection started of different ones to read. This one is a fun story, but also good for the changing of seasons. (Pictures not necessarily in exact order - wanted to give a general idea of the story)

This is a CHARMING book absolutely made for sitting with a young child on one's lap to read. The notion that the child "makes" the story happen by tapping on the pages is magical and creates a nice surprise for the child (and the adult!). It is a quiet book, full of feeling and wonder. (To preserve the wonder, I put this away for special reading times.)

This book is a big hit with my first graders. It is interactive in the very best way and suggests the idea of seasons without lecture. It is on constant rotation among our read-alouds and is requested frequently.

Can't wait to read this to my mild special needs preschoolers. I planned a unit on trees to introduce spring and this is a perfect book for that and to review the four seasons. It's simple, beautiful and interactive. I'm sure my class will love it. Addendum: Read it in the spring and they loved it! Will read it again this week as we begin our study of apple trees. Great book!!!

Okay for my 4 year old. Only requested this one once in the last month. He prefers 'Press Here' over this book. Might be more fun for a 3 year old. Then again, a few weeks from now he might

phase this book into his interests. We'll see.

Love this book, very participatory. Read to my niece on her 6th birthday. I love the story and the illustrations.

If you like interactive books like the popular "Let's Play," then you will love this too. As a bonus, the illustrations make it more aesthetically pleasing. The magic tree progresses through all the seasons and requires actions from the reader such as shaking, knocking, tapping, blowing, ect. My kids have a ton of fun reading this book and I do too. I have given it as a gift to others a few times now.

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