



Call Me Tree: Llámame árbol

Maya Christina González

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In this spare, lyrically written story, we join a child on a journey of self-discovery. Finding a way to grow from the inside out, just like a tree, the child develops as an individual comfortable in the natural world and in relationships with others. The child begins "Within/ The deep dark earth," like a seed, ready to grow and then dream and reach out to the world. Soon the child discovers birds and the sky and other children: Trees and trees/ Just like me! Each is different too. The child embraces them all because All trees have roots/ All trees belong. Maya Christina Gonzalez once again combines her talents as an artist and a storyteller to craft a gentle, empowering story about belonging, connecting with nature, and becoming your fullest self. Young readers will be inspired to dream and reach, reach and dream . . . and to be as free and unique as trees."

Call Me Tree: Llámame árbol Details

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ISBN : 9780892392940

Author : Maya Christina González

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From Reader Review Call Me Tree: Llámame árbol for online ebook

Liaken says

The illustrations are glowing and warm, magical. The text is poetic and simple in a way that I found breathtaking and freeing. I loved this book. I'm a tree person, and this book is wonderfully resonant. I also loved the oblique treatment of gender. It seemed somehow amplified by being a bilingual book. I think those who think children won't "get" this book are simply not tree people. I would have loved this book as a child.

Jillian says

This almost seems like it would work well with the "Good Morning" yoga/stretching books out there - the little boy is dreaming of being a tree, and stretching and growing along with the words. Even when other kids are shown, it almost looks like they're doing yoga poses themselves!

The illustrations are vibrant, with lots of warm colours. My only qualm with this book is that the Very Young Ones won't grasp the metaphor - but the language of the text (both languages!) and the illustrations are lovely.

Maria says

Written and illustrated by Maya Christina González, she brings to life a book that is personal to her love of trees. Having spent time in Oregon and around nature, trees inspired her to be who she is and be free. This book illustrates just that, encouraging kids to be who they are meant to be. To bring out their inner curiosity and empower them to be free like the trees. Written in both Spanish and English, it will appeal to kids of all backgrounds. Her illustrations are diverse and kids can find some sort of connection in the illustrations, and if they like yoga, they might even recognize some of the poses the kids are doing!

Abby Pooch says

I think I can see what the author was trying to do with this book, but it fails in execution. The illustrations are beautiful, but the text doesn't really make sense as a cohesive story, even a cohesive story of growing. It seems like the author might have wanted it to be used as an adjunct to doing yoga with kids. However, it's not clear how this would be done with the book in its current form. There are much better books available for this purpose. I think some adults would enjoy reading this book to their children, but I don't think the children would understand or enjoy it very much.

Kaley says

I am so glad I ran into this book! It is very rare to see an non-conforming gender childrens books and even

more so a book in Spanish as well with a hispanic protagonist! Maya Gonzalez did an amazing job writing a story about a boy growing in its own unique way just like a tree. The moral of the story was that just like every tree, everyone is different in their own way but they all are humans and come from the same roots but grow out to be themselves. I as well, like the message of self acceptance and self love, because we must love who we are because there will only ever be one of us.

Alexander Goos says

Call Me Tree or Llamame Arbol is a children's book written by Maya Christina Rodriguez. The story is of a child who says that they are like a tree, growing and living free. The child does not use gender specific pronouns, or other gender specific words, and exists outside the ideas of gender, and exists as they are...like a tree.

Something I really enjoyed about this story was the colorful artwork, and the message about individuality and respecting someone and how no matter where we "grow" and how different we may seem we are all deep down the same.

Another thing I really enjoyed was the fact that this book was written both in English and in Spanish, that way in my future classroom I can use this as a way to help any primarily Spanish speaking students work on their English, and help my native English speaking students learn Spanish.

Here is the Lee and Low website to find out more about this book.

<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2866>

As a classroom connection I would have the students create a cultural X-ray.

Andrea Goldston says

Sweet, Beautiful, bilingual book.

Linda says

Here Maya Gonzalez shows her human affinity with trees, to be oneself, to be exactly who one is. Each page is filled with children close to a tree, 'I reach and I rise', one child says, standing, almost 'being' the tree. It too is filled with colorful, dream-like illustrations.

In the back matter, Maya writes a special letter to her readers, about her love for colors, the desert, rivers, and trees. Each one calls for at least a small connection to something personal, and connecting with nature.

Tasha says

This poetic picture book combines a celebration of trees with one of human diversity. A boy starts to grow under the earth, reaching his arm up to break the surface of the ground. His arm and fingers becomes a trunk and branches and soon he too is up in the air next to his tree. Just as trees have freedom, so does he. Just as each tree is different from another, he is different from the other people too. Yet they all have roots and they all belong on the earth and in the world.

This very simple book is written like a free verse poem in both English and Spanish, closely tying biodiversity to human diversity in a clever way. The connection of humans and trees is beautifully shown as well, in a way that ties each person to a tree like them. It's a book that is radiant in its delight in our connection to nature and the way that nature's diversity reflects on our own.

Gonzalez both wrote and illustrated this picture book. Her illustrations are colorful with deep colors that leap on the page. The characters on the page are bold and different, each with their own feel of exuberance or quiet contemplation or strength. Along with each different child, there is a tree connected to them that equally reflects their personality. It's a very clever way to clearly tie humans to nature.

This book could serve as inspiration for children to draw their own personal trees that express themselves or it can be a lullaby to dreams of blue skies and green leaves. Appropriate for ages 3-5.

Morgane says

For someone learning Spanish, bilingual children's books like this are a godsend. Plus it has a cute message and me gustan los arboles.

Donalyn says

Beautifully illustrated with both English and Spanish text.

Maryam says

If I'm only thinking of the criteria for Luminarias, I have to agree with Michelle. I'd give it a 3.5, based on the lack of young child appeal. It is beautiful, in both text and illustrations. But I think the metaphors would prove too obscure for most K-2 kids. Older children could find a lot of poetic essence to revel in, if they were so inclined.

Vamos a Leer says

Call Me Tree/Llámame árbol, by Maya Christina Gonzalez is a beautiful book that manages the unique

achievement of being gender neutral. This book is about a child who embodies nature by becoming a tree. The poetry carries the reader through the child's imagination, from growing into a tree to the discovery of other diverse children-trees, and includes a metaphorical message that suggests all trees, like all people, belong in the world.

The book has received a lot of attention for its non-gender specific protagonist. This was a very deliberate decision made by the author. In an interview with The Huffington Post, Gonzales stated "By being gender free, *Call Me Tree* provides for some a much needed break from the constant boy-girl assumptions and requirements. It can also provide a moment to pause and consider those assumptions, requirements and their impact."

She went on to describe how a strict gender binary in our society can have devastating effects on children who are developing their identity. "Gender nonconformity is one of the leading causes of bullying and can have long lasting, even tragic consequences. By beginning early and sharing age appropriate books that help kids see through gender assumptions, gender creative kids can relax and trust that they are perfectly natural and valuable." Having a non-gender specific protagonist opens up the possibility that it's ok not to know the gender of a child, and thus the book creates a safe space where people can be themselves and still fit in no matter what.

Apart from the progressive gender-neutral message, what we found to be most valuable about the book is that it can allow students to feel a simultaneous connection to nature and their community. This will hopefully lead readers to feel inspired to embrace their own individuality, while seeing commonalities between themselves and others at the same time.

We view the book as a good tool for multicultural teaching not simply for its bilingual format but because it supports positive lessons related to acceptance, equality, and diversity. That the text is in poetry form lends to the celebration of nature in a beautiful way, and allows it to be used in classroom activities that relate to poetry.

To read our full review including links to classroom resources, visit the Vamos a Leer blog at <http://tiny.cc/vamosaleer>

Danielle says

"All trees have roots / All trees belong."

Rachel Asper says

Call Me Tree is a realistic story about self-acceptance and a celebration of staying true to one's self. I loved the theme of this book also. This book uses metaphors to talk about how people and their characteristics are important and should not be shamed. Everyone is strong and is unique. I enjoyed reading this book because there was a good message for the students to follow. To connect students to this book, I will have them draw trees and connect it to how they are big and strong human beings. I will then also have them draw themselves and write some characteristics they have to promote themselves. This is a book for my diverse

topic text set.
