



2018

Albert's Tree

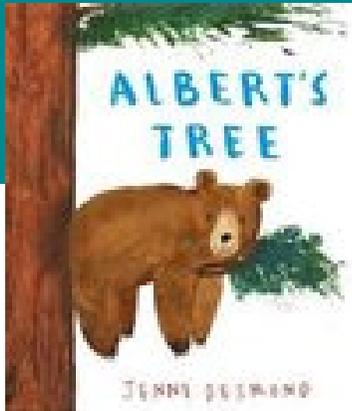
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Book Review

Albert's Tree

Author

Jenni Desmond

Illustrator

Reviewer

Kylee Vidmar-Hackney

Rating

Excellent

Level

Toddler, Preschool

Pages

32

Year

2016

Publisher

Candlewick Press

ISBN

9781406362473

After a long hibernation, Albert can't wait to get back to his favorite hang out spot. When he makes it to his special tree, he is startled when the tree suddenly begins wailing in tears! Time continues and Albert and his friends try everything to cheer the tree up. After Albert yells at the tree in absolute frustration, he finally decides to try a softer approach by climbing up to his branch and hugging the tree. To Albert's astonishment he hears a small voice say, "I'm scared of the big hairy monster." When he finds out the voice is from Owl, a fellow tree mate, the two can't contain their laughter when they discover that Albert thought the Owl was the tree, and Owl thought Bear was a big scary monster.

Albert's Tree by Jenni Desmond teaches a valuable lesson of finding friendship through patience and kindness. This story would be a wonderful addition to a preschool or kindergarten class where students struggle to feel empathy for their saddened peers. Where the book lacks depth and originality, the strengths make up for it in the beautifully painted pictures and strong theme portrayed. Preschool-aged children would find this story amusing and relatable as they read through the array of emotions expressed throughout. All readers alike can find value in the message of discovering friendship in even the most unlikely of places.