

The Big Old Rambutan Tree

By Kathy Creamer & Illustrated by Sandra Severgnini

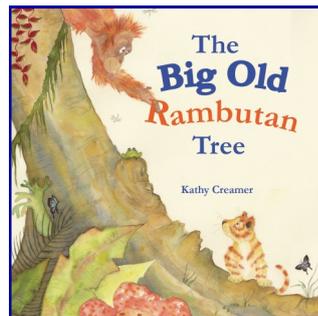
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\$24.95

Picture Book of
the Month

Ginger, the orangutan, rears an orphaned tiger cub as her own. When the growing tiger's natural instincts begin to show, the two have to part ways. With all proceeds of this book being donated to Orangutan Outreach, this gentle story of friendship and the struggle to survive in the threatened Sumatran rainforest offers hope.



Teacher Notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher. A full version is available on our website.

Themes:

- Relationships: love, trust and loyalty.
- Sustainability: animal conservation, diminishing habitat, environment, orangutans, tigers and the struggle for survival.

Discussion Questions:

Before Reading:

- *Think:* Read the title of the book: make predictions -
 - ◇ Do you know what a Rambutan tree is? Who is the main character in the book? How do the cover and title page help you?
- *Wonder:* What do we know about sustainability?
 - ◇ Students brainstorm what they are curious about, what they wonder and would like to know.
 - ◇ Begin a K-W-L chart, completing What I KNOW and What I WONDER sections.
- *Seek:* Explore what the students know about orangutans – their size, what they eat, where they live and other interesting facts, such as opposable thumbs.

While Reading:

- Who or what is Ginger? What can she smell?
- Which little animal is crying? What does Ginger do?
- How do the other orangutans react? What is their point of view?
- Ginger has a different point of view. What decision does she make?
- List four things that Ginger teaches Stripes.
- What is 'the peculiar smell' that prickles Ginger's nose?
- Explain how flames can 'lick up' a tree.
- Explain how Ginger is saved.
- Which other animals does Stripes help?
- What happens after the fire? How are people trying to help the animals?
- How do the orangutans celebrate the fruiting of the Rambutan tree? Who is their special guest?
- How do we know the animals will be safe at the end of the book?
- Why is it important to know that the Rambutan tree is 'big' and 'old'?

Activity:

- Review the illustrations on each page, observing each character's facial expressions and their body language. Ask students to name the emotion each character is feeling and discuss how they could tell. Students select one of Stripe's expressions to create on a tiger mask, using a paper plate, orange paint, black markers, black pipe cleaners or wool, elastic, card, etc. Students wear the mask while acting the emotion and sharing the associated event in the plot.