

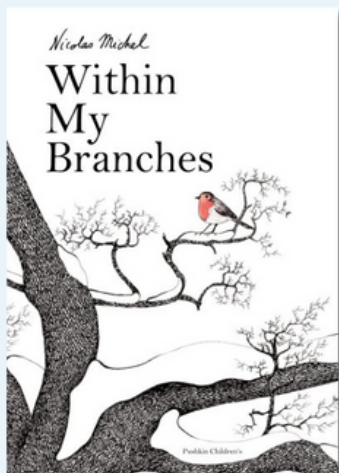
# Within My Branches

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# BOOK TALK CARDS



Spark discussion and foster a reading community with our top picks



## ABOUT THE BOOK

Through beautiful illustrations, explore the life of an oak tree: from its green sapling beginnings to its growth as a towering natural refuge for many flora and fauna.



## OUR THOUGHTS

"It tells the story of an oak tree not only through illustrations, but with simple, meaningful and poignant words."



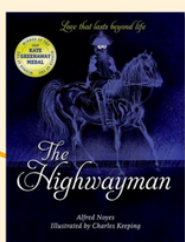
## THEMES:

- Conservation • Adventures
- Growing • Nature • Judgments

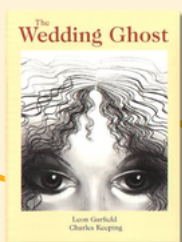
## TIME TO TALK

- 1 Why does the story 'begin badly' – what do you think is happening?
- 2 Who is telling the story?
- 3 How do we determine whether someone has had a 'good life' – what do you think would suggest a good life?
- 4 Why do the animals at the start represent 'mortal danger'?
- 5 '...elegant early birds' – why might this be considered an unusual description for crows? How are they often viewed? What might the poet be suggesting by choosing a description which changes your opinion?
- 6 Why do you think the bird of prey is referred to as a god? Do you agree?
- 7 'I chose not to take sides' – what do you think of this statement? When might this be a good strategy? When might it be more difficult, or when should you choose to take sides?
- 8 In what ways is the tree or its offspring able to be adventurous? In what ways is the tree trapped by its roots? Would you like to travel far?
- 9 Why do you think the author chooses to use personification to describe the tree being cut down?
- 10 Do you think the tree's final job is more important or its original role grounded in the woodland?

## TAKE THE TEXT FURTHER WITH OUR TOP 5 TEXTS TO CONTINUE THE THEME:



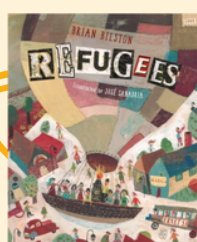
*The Highwayman* by Alfred Noyes and Charles Keeping (illustrator)



*The Wedding Ghost* by Leon Garfield and Charles Keeping (illustrator)



*Follow that Word* by John Agard and Momoko Abe (illustrator)



*Refugees* by Brian Bilston and Jose Sanabria (illustrator)



*Wild Child* by Dara McNulty and Barry Falls (illustrator)