

A GOOD DAY FOR CLIMBING TREES

ABOUT THE BOOK

Marnus is tired of feeling invisible, living in the shadow of his two brothers. His elder brother is good at breaking swimming records and girls' hearts. His younger brother is a crafty entrepreneur who has tricked him into doing the dishes all summer. But when a girl called Leila turns up on their doorstep one morning with a petition, it's the start of an unforgettable adventure.

A runaway success in South Africa, *A Good Day for Climbing Trees* is a perfect middle grade novel for librarians and teachers looking for ways to teach children to stand up for what they believe in, as well as promoting an environmentally conscious worldview.

ACTIVITIES TO TRY WITH YOUR GROUP

- Apply for a free tree pack from the Woodland Trust to start planting trees in your school and community
- Create a poster featuring facts and drawings of your favourite tree
- Discuss which trees native to the UK are best for climbing
- Plant fresh fruits and vegetables in your school playground or your own garden with the help of Edible Playgrounds and Trees for Cities
- A competition for children to draw or paint a tree in order to receive a prize
- Fundraise as a class or a school to buy an acre of land with the World Land Trust and help save the rainforest and wildlife habitats
- Adopt a tree in the Royal Parks and receive a personalised certificate of support

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Author Jaco Jacobs has written over 140 books for children. This book has been translated from Afrikaans by Kobus Geldenhuys.

FACTS ABOUT THE KAREE TREE

- Latin name: *Searsia lancea*
- Name in other African languages: "karree" (Afrikaans), "hlokoshiyne" (Zulu), "umhlakotshane" (Xhosa), or "mokalaabata" (Northern Sotho)
- Maximum height: 8 metres
- Maximum width: 5 metres
- Special features: edible fruit for birds and antelope, gives shade to animals, feeds honeybees

DISCUSSION POINTS

- Why did Leila want so desperately to save this particular tree?
- Why did the municipal authorities want to remove it? Do you think they had a point?
- Why do you think Marnus and Leila's campaign generated so much media interest?
- Why do you think Marnus felt so invisible until he did something to help someone else?
- Would you climb a tree to save it – and why?

