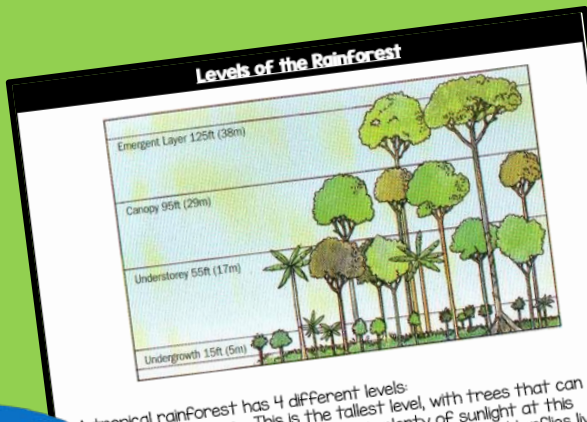


# Earth Day for Readers!

A Cross-Curricular Unit based on the books:  
Just A Dream and  
The Great Kapok Tree



A tropical rainforest has 4 different levels:  
Emergent Layer - This is the tallest level, with trees that can be as tall as 200 feet tall. There is plenty of sunlight at this level. Animals such as monkeys, bats, eagles and butterflies live in this level.

Canopy Layer - This layer has many trees with smooth, oval leaves that form a roof over the bottom two layers. There is less sunlight here. Animals such as snakes and toucans live in this level, where there is much food for animals.

Understorey Layer - The understorey has much less sunlight and is only about 12 feet tall. This layer has many small plants and other animals such as jaguars, leopards and birds.

Undergrowth Layer - There is almost no sunlight down here. Very few plants grow here because it is so dark. Small animals live in this layer of the rainforest.

**Math in The Great Kapok Tree**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Rainforests are very humid (wet) and warm, with many different types of plants and trees everywhere. Because the rainforest stays very warm all year round, the plants never go dormant (go to sleep) or lose their leaves during the year. The average temperature in the rainforest is 25 degrees Celsius, or 77 degrees Fahrenheit. The average temperature in July in New York City is 29 degrees Celsius, or 85 degrees Fahrenheit. What is the difference in temperature between a rainforest and New York City in both Celsius and Fahrenheit? What does this tell you about the relationship between Celsius and Fahrenheit degrees?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Leafcutter ants are very busy in the rainforest running up and down the trees collecting bits of leaves. Each ant can carry about 15 mg of leaves down to his "farm", where the leaves are buried underground. About how many ants would it take to carry away 3 grams of leaf litter? (HINT: 1 g = 1000mg)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Grades  
3-5

# Just a Dream

## Walter's Dream

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

In *Just a Dream*, the main character, Walter, has a very unsettled night of sleep broken by a series of dreams. Each dream is about a problem that may occur if the environment is not protected. Make a list of the problems.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_

*Just a Dream* was written to show the need to protect our environment. Write by Walter in his dreams do you think the reasons to support your answer.

## Questions, Questions!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Multiple Choice

Mark the most appropriate answer.

Which of these words is NOT an adjective?

### Maximum Strength Medicine Factors

- ☐ Maximum
- ☐ Strength
- ☐ Medicine
- ☐ Factory

**Open Response:** Use your own ideas to answer the questions.

1. In many stories there is a change in a character. Explain how Walter's character changes in *Just a Dream*.

2. Why do you think Chris Van Allsburg wrote *Just a Dream*?

## Cause and Effect

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Many stories, like *Just a Dream*, show the relationship between cause and effect.

A **cause** is an event. An **effect** is the result of a cause. For example, a car crash is the effect of a driver's mistake.

Match each cause from the list to its effect.

### Cause

- Smog
- Chemicals From Factories
- Traffic
- Trees cut down
- Water not used wisely
- Littering
- Tourism
- Overfishing

Choose ONE of the "causes" and write an announcement that can help the school understand what the cause is.

## Math in Just a Dream

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Walter's family had 54 pieces of trash that must be sorted before the garbage and recycling trucks come to pick up the containers. Half of the trash cannot be recycled. How many pieces of trash can be recycled? Justify your answer.

Walter has to sort the recyclable items into 2 trash cans, one for cans and one for bottles. He has twice as many cans as he has bottles. How many cans and bottles does he have?

On the back of this paper, create your own math problem about Walter's garbage. Figure out your answer first, and then trade papers with a friend to answer each other's questions (be sure to cover up your answer so your friend can't see it first!).

# The Great Kapok Tree



### Levels of the Rainforest

Emergent Layer 125ft (38m)

Canopy 90ft

Understorey

Undergrowth

### Rainforest Research

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Rainforests cover about 6% of our planet. They are a very important part of our world. Many of the world's rainforests are being destroyed for many different reasons. Check out this website: <http://k...>

Use the website to find at least 2 and about the rainforest.

Why are rainforests important?

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Why are the rainforests disappearing?

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

What can we do to protect the rainforests?

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

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### Parts of Speech in The Great Kapok Tree

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Lynne Cherry uses many different types of words in *The Great Kapok Tree*.

Some words are nouns (people, places, or things) such as "sloth" - a slow-moving animal who lives in the rainforest.

Other words are verbs (action words).

Some words are adjectives (words that describe a noun).

Sort these words from *The Great Kapok Tree* into columns.

Nouns	Verbs	Adjectives
generations	ancestors	slither
hesitated	canopy	awake
oxygen	unstriped	knelt

Leafcutter ants are very busy in the rainforest running and collecting bits of leaves. Each ant can carry about 15% of its body weight. "Farm", where the leaves are buried underground. At the end of the day, the ants take to carry away 3 grams of leaf litter? (HINT: 1g = 1000mg)

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### Math in The Great Kapok Tree

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Rainforests are very humid (wet) and warm, with many different types of plants and trees everywhere. Because the rainforests are so warm and humid, the plants never go dormant (go to sleep) or die. The average temperature in the rainforest is 85 degrees Fahrenheit. The average temperature in July is 85 degrees Celsius, or 85 degrees Fahrenheit. What is the difference between a rainforest and New York City in both Celsius and Fahrenheit?

Do you agree or disagree with the boa constrictor when he says the kapok tree is a "tree of miracles"? (HINT: 1g = 1000mg)

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### Questions, Questions!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Multiple Choice: Mark the most appropriate answer with an "X".

What part of speech is the word "sweat" in this sentence?  
The man wiped off the sweat that ran down his face and neck.

What is the root (or base) word for "wondrous"?

<input type="checkbox"/> noun <input type="checkbox"/> verb <input type="checkbox"/> pronoun <input type="checkbox"/> adjective	<input type="checkbox"/> wonderful <input type="checkbox"/> wondering <input type="checkbox"/> wonder <input type="checkbox"/> wonderment
--	--

Open Response: Use information from the text and your own ideas to answer the questions.

Do you agree or disagree with the boa constrictor when he says the kapok tree is a "tree of miracles"?

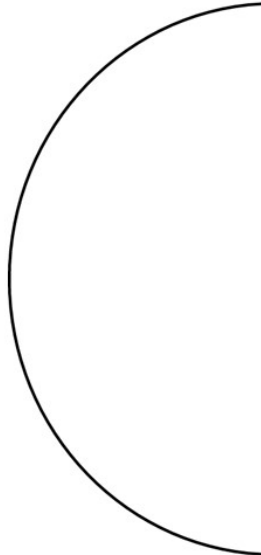
What does the child in the story mean when he asks the sleeping man to "look upon us all with new eyes"?

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# Book Comparisons

## Comparing Just a Dream and The Great Kapok Tree

Use this Venn Diagram to show how these two books are the same and how they are different.



Just a Dream

Strengths

### Oral Book Comparison Rubric

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Category	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Knowledge & Understanding	Includes some of the required information listed on the anchor chart.			
Thinking	Does not reason or support details in his/her argument.			
Communication	Rarely makes content audible or clear. Flue			
Application	Presentation does not engage with the topic.			

### Oral Book Comparison Planning Sheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Hook: \_\_\_\_\_

Sentence to introduce yourself: \_\_\_\_\_

Book Introductions

Book 1:

Summary:

Book 2:

Summary:

More Persuasive Book: \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons why this book is more persuasive:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Action the book has convinced you to take: \_\_\_\_\_

"Call to Arms" (encourage viewer to read the book): \_\_\_\_\_



# Answer Keys

## Cause and Effect: Answers

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Many stories, like *Just a Dream*, have a series of "cause and effect" relationships.

A **cause** is an event. An **effect** is something that happens only *because* of the cause. For example, a cause in your own life could be not brushing your teeth, and the effect would be having to get a cavity filled by the dentist.

Match each cause from *Just a Dream* with the effect it creates by drawing lines.

**Cause**

**Effect**

Smog — Animal homes destroyed  
 Chemicals from factories — Noise pollution  
 Traffic —  
 Trees cut down —  
 Water not used wisely —  
 Littering —  
 Tourism —  
 Overfishing —

Choose ONE of the "causes" and write an announcement that can be read in school to help understand what the cause is.

Student responses should be:  
 • aimed at specific audience  
 • engaging "hook" at beginning  
 • tells audience of particular problem  
 • mentions effects of the problem  
 • tells audience of one specific action to "take arms" for action

## Math in The Great Kapok Tree: Answers

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Rainforests are very humid (wet) and warm, with many different types of plants and trees everywhere. Because the rainforest stays very warm all year round, the plants never go dormant (go to sleep) or lose their leaves during the year. The average temperature in the rainforest is 25 degrees Celsius, or 77 degrees Fahrenheit. The average temperature in July in New York City is 29 degrees Celsius, or 85 degrees Fahrenheit. What is the difference in temperature between a rainforest and New York City in both Celsius and Fahrenheit? What does this tell you about the relationship between Celsius and Fahrenheit degrees?

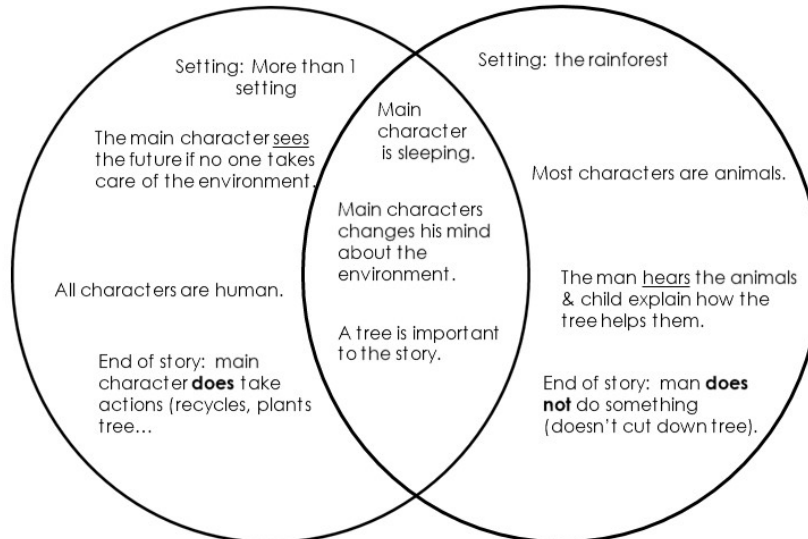
Celsius:  $29 - 25 = 4$  There is a 4 degree difference in temperature between a rainforest and New York City in Celsius degrees.

Fahrenheit:  $85 - 77 = 8$  There is an 8 degree difference in temperature between a rainforest and New York City in Fahrenheit degrees.



## Comparing Just a Dream and The Great Kapok Tree

Use this Venn Diagram to show how these two books are the same and how they are different.



**Just a Dream**

**The Great Kapok Tree**

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