

ACTIVITY GUIDE FOR ARROW



ABOUT THE BOOK:

Minimum Reader Age: 8

Lexile: 610L

Topics: Environment, Deforestation, Friendship, Acceptance, Disabilities, STEM

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Mad Max meets The Jungle Book with lots of Fern Gully

Arrow, a 12-year-old boy with a limb difference, has grown up the only human in a lush forest oasis of a dry and arid future world, where the rich live in stilted cities and industry has devoured nearly all the trees. This patch of rainforest survives behind a magical curtain that keeps it hidden from those who would exploit it. But the magic has started to deplete, and the veil that shields the forest has begun to shred. When people from the outside world find the cracks in the magic, they discover a place they have only seen in dreams—dense and green with water in the air. Arrow is intrigued by these new humans, the first of his kind he’s ever seen, but their arrival sets off a chain of events that will lead Arrow to make a devastating choice: be accepted by the people or save his home from being destroyed.




ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

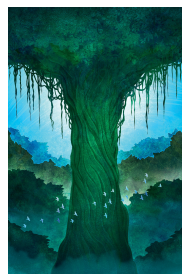
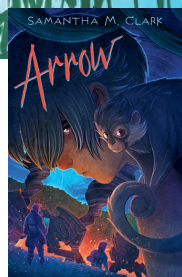
Samantha M Clark is the award-winning author of THE BOY, THE BOAT, AND THE BEAST and ARROW (both published by Paula Wiseman Books/Simon & Schuster) and AMERICAN HORSE TALES: HOLLYWOOD (Penguin Workshop/Penguin Random House), as well as the GEMSTONE DRAGONS chapter book series from Bloomsbury. She lives with her husband and two funny dogs in Austin, Texas, where she helps other writers as the Regional Advisor for the Austin chapter of the Society of Children’s Book Writers & Illustrators. When she’s not writing books, Samantha likes to visit trees.

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 Told by the Guardian Tree of the magically hidden rainforest ARROW has themes of friendship, truth and protecting our environment. It's set in a world that's arid, polluted and harsh; a world that could be our future if we don't make changes now. The Guardian Tree has lived for many rings and seen the destructive forces of lies and greed. As she shows Arrow the history of why the rainforest had to hide, young readers will see how our actions today will have consequences in the years to come. The fantastical elements of ARROW are all based on science, making it a perfect path to teaching [Next Generation Science Standard](#). This middle-grade eco-fiction novel will inspire readers to learn more about their world, the importance of maintaining balance in our ecosystems, and how they can protect trees and forests. Get them started with these Learning Activities and Make a Difference Activities.



LEARNING ACTIVITIES



Keep a Tree Journal



Keeping a Tree Journal is a great way to learn about trees. Did you know there are more than 60,000 tree species on our planet, each one native to particular areas? The scientists and explorers who discovered them documented their findings in journals. As you walk around your neighborhood and town, make notes on the trees you see. How tall are they? As big as a one-story house, or as big as an apartment building? Draw the leaves and note the colors. You can even glue leaves and seeds into your journal. Do a rubbing of the bark with your pencil. Write how the tree makes you feel. Research the leaves to identify the tree. Is it native to your area? If not, how do you think it got there? (Hint: Birds and the wind carry small seeds, but people also bring trees and plants to different areas.) Get your friends to keep tree journals too and share your discoveries.

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STEM Exercise: Make Edible Soil

In ARROW, Arrow, Petari and Val discover that one way they can help the rainforest and the Guardian Tree is to improve the soil. Healthy soil takes 30 years to be created, so we have to protect it. Learn about soil with this fun edible soil craft. Gather snacks like Oreo cookies, chocolate chips, chocolate pudding, and graham cracker crumbles, then layer them in a clear glass to represent the different layers of soil: bedrock, subsoil, topsoil, organic matter and microbes. Don't forget the gummy worms to break down the organic matter and help soil creation. Once you've learned about the layers of soil, you can eat it! This is the only time eating soil is good.



STEM Exercise: Germinate Seeds



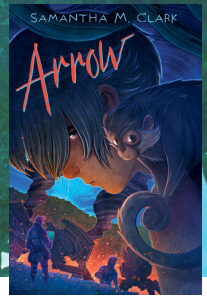
All trees started out as little seeds. Watching seeds germinate is not only fascinating, it shows children root systems and gives them a unique connection to trees as they see how they can grow from something so small. Get a glass jar, paper towels, water and seeds. Vegetables or flowers are good to use. Push the paper towels into the glass jar then add water until the towels are damp. Pour out extra water. Push seeds down the sides of the jar so they are held in place by the towels and mark them on the glass so you know what you're germinating. The seeds should germinate within a few days, and soon the plants will be growing out to top of the jar. When they're bigger, plant them outside and watch them thrive.

Make the Tree of You

See yourself in a tree! Draw around your hand on paper, leaving the tips of your fingers open. Draw branches from the fingers. Write in the branches and trunks everything that makes up you, your home, interests, and more. Then color your tree in all your favorite colors.

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"Just like the old Forest Dwellers who lived here, we all have to work together to save the forest." –Arrow

All humans have to work together to protect the earth and trees. Here are some fun and easy things children can do to give back to the earth. After a week of trying one of these activities, write about what you've learned, what you liked about the activity, and what you will continue to do in the future.

RESTORE THE MAGIC ACTIVITIES

Conserve Water

- Turn off the faucet when you don't need it while you're brushing your teeth.
- Take short showers and baths. Can you take a shower in less than 10 minutes?

Conserve Energy

- Turn off the lights when you leave a room.
- Unplug your devices when you aren't using them.

Give Old Things New Life

- Use cardboard boxes to make a fort or a castle for your toys.
- Make a gift using things you might normally throw away.
- Try to fix broken toys instead of throwing them away

Give What You Don't Need To Those Who Do

- Find three toys you don't use anymore and donate them or give them away
- Find three pieces of clothes that don't fit you and donate them

Pick Up Trash

- Trash can lead to pollution, which can damage soil and trees. Pick up trash and throw it away.

Share What You Learn!

- The more people learn about how wonderful trees and the earth is, the more they will want to protect it, just like Petari and Val in ARROW. Share something cool you learned about the earth with a family member or friend. Be a tree hero!