

Required Materials: *The Great Kapok Tree* by Lynne Cherry, The Great Kapok Tree handout, pencil

Description: Read *The Great Kapok Tree* to the children. After reading the book, have the children record all of the living things that rely on the Kapok tree to survive. Discuss the relationships between the plants and animals in the story and the importance of all living things in the tropical rainforest. Have children complete the handout and describe what happened at the beginning of the story, middle of the story, and end of the story. Discuss with the children how the boy's actions changed from the beginning to the end of the story.

Additional Discussion:

- Ask the children what they think would happen if the Kapok tree in the book disappeared from the rainforest. Focus the conversation on a plant's role in an ecosystem and why it is important to protect plants and our environment.
- The boy's perspective in the story changed from the beginning to the end. Ask children to think about a time in their life when their perspective changed from the beginning of an experience to the end that experience. Discuss what happened to change their viewpoint.

