

Script for use by Speech-Language Pathologists



Art & Oakie Ask: Do You Speak Tree?



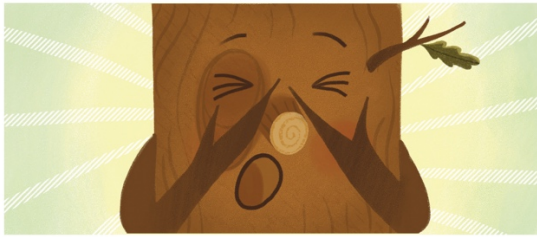
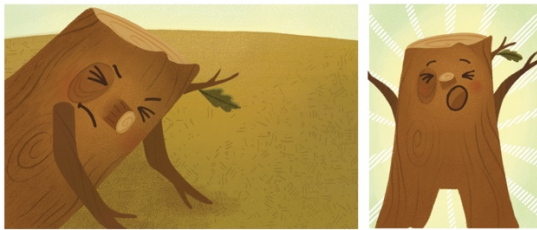
Written by Josh Oaktree.

Illustrated by Josiane Vlitos.

With creative direction from Amelia Boscov.



The book is dedicated, "For the Trees."



One morning, Oakie the good-natured oak tree woke up.

Oakie rubbed their eyes and saw, "Oh, no..."

Someone had cut down all the other trees.



"Growl! Growl!"

A bulldozer came out of nowhere and knocked Oakie over,
sending Oakie tumbling across the construction site.



When Oakie looked up, there was a cute, little squirrel in front of them.

Oakie asked the squirrel, “Do you speak Tree?”

[AUTHOR NOTE: I usually ask the audience, “What do you think? Does the squirrel speak Tree?” and the kids interject what they think.]

But the squirrel didn’t speak Tree. The squirrel ran off with Oakie’s acorn.

Meanwhile, “Boom! Crash! Grow! Grow! Crash! Boom!”

The construction continued.



Determined, Oakie left their home.

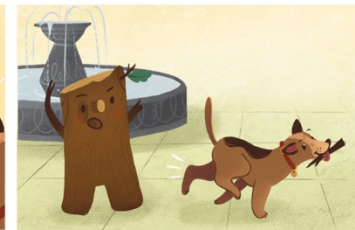
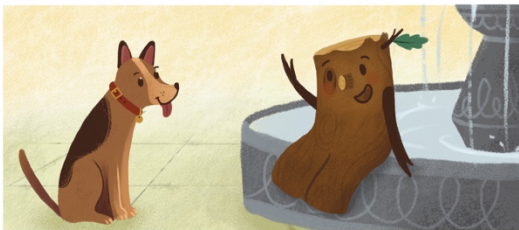
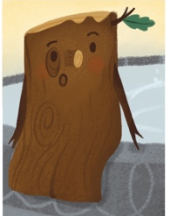
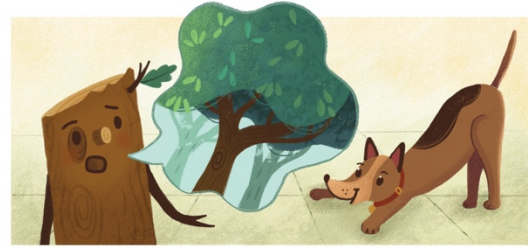
They set out on adventure to find someone who would speak up for the forests.

When Oakie arrived to town, Oakie saw...pigeons.

Oakie waved hello to the pigeons and asked them, "Do you speak Tree?"

[What do you think? Do the pigeons speak Tree?]

But the pigeons didn't speak tree and flew away from Oakie.



Sad, Oakie sat.

A dog came over and said hello, "Woof! Woof!"

Oakie asked the dog, "Do you speak Tree?"

[What do you think? Does the dog speak Tree?]

But the dog didn't speak Tree. Oakie gave the dog a pet and —

"Arf!"

— the dog ran off with Oakie's arm!

[Oh, no! Will Oakie get their arm back?]



Oakie ran after the dog.

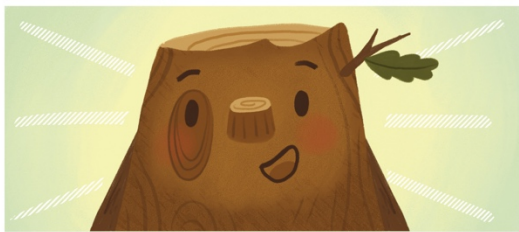
"Come back!" Oakie said.

But the dog didn't stop.

[Where do you think the dog is going?]

Oakie walked up to the dog and took back their arm...

...when a ball flew overhead.



The dog had brought Oakie to a school.

Eureka! Oakie got an idea.

Oakie entered the school and saw lots and lots of students arriving for the day.

Oakie went up to the older students and asked them, "Do you speak Tree?"

[What do you think? Do the older kids speak Tree?]

But the older students didn't speak Tree. Poor, Oakie.



Oakie walked down the hallway to classroom 1B.

Across the room, Oakie saw a student who was quietly drawing all by herself.

The student is named Art. Art waved to Oakie, "Hello!"

Oakie waved back. Oakie asked Art, "Do you speak Tree?"

[What do you think? Does Art speak Tree?]

Art held up a drawing of a tree!

[Art does speak Tree!]



So, Oakie told Art all about the day and what happened.

Oakie told Art how they woke up to the other trees being cut down.

And how Oakie met a squirrel and a pigeon and a dog.

But no one spoke Tree.



Art gave Oakie a comforting pat on the back. Art got an idea!

Art drew a picture of Oakie and she drew a picture of the dog that Oakie met.

Art showed Oakie her drawings.

Then stood on her chair...



...and showed everyone her drawings.

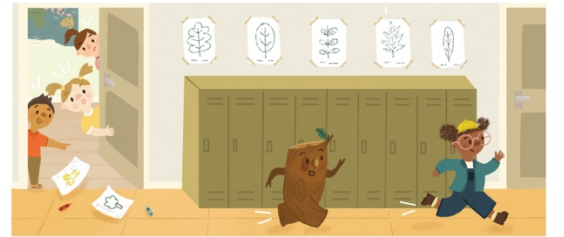
[What do you see? What did Art draw?]

She told everyone about the bulldozers cutting down Oakie's forest.

She told everyone to say hello to Oakie.

But the teacher saw Art standing on the table.

And said, "Get down! You'll hurt yourself."



But Art didn't get down from the table. She said, "Do you speak Tree?!!"

And she ran from the room. The teacher said, "Stop!"

Oakie waved, "C'mon." And ran from the room, too.

Art's classmates looked out the door.

[What do you think? Should Art's classmates follow them?]



One-by-one and two-by-two, Art's classmates followed Art and Oakie.

They left the school. The teacher ran after them.

"Come back!" she said, "School isn't over!"

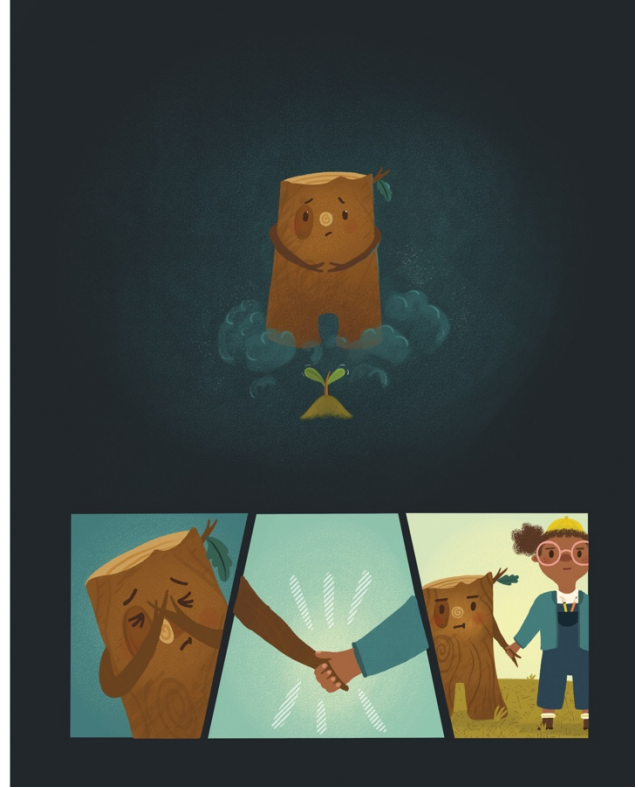
But the dog jumped up on the teacher. The dog said, "Woof! Woof! Woof!"



The class continued into town.

They saw the pigeons who took one look at the class and took flight,
flying over the construction site.

[Where do you think Art and Oakie are going? What do you think they will do?]



Oh, no! A bulldozer was about to run over the last and littlest plant.

Oakie ran.

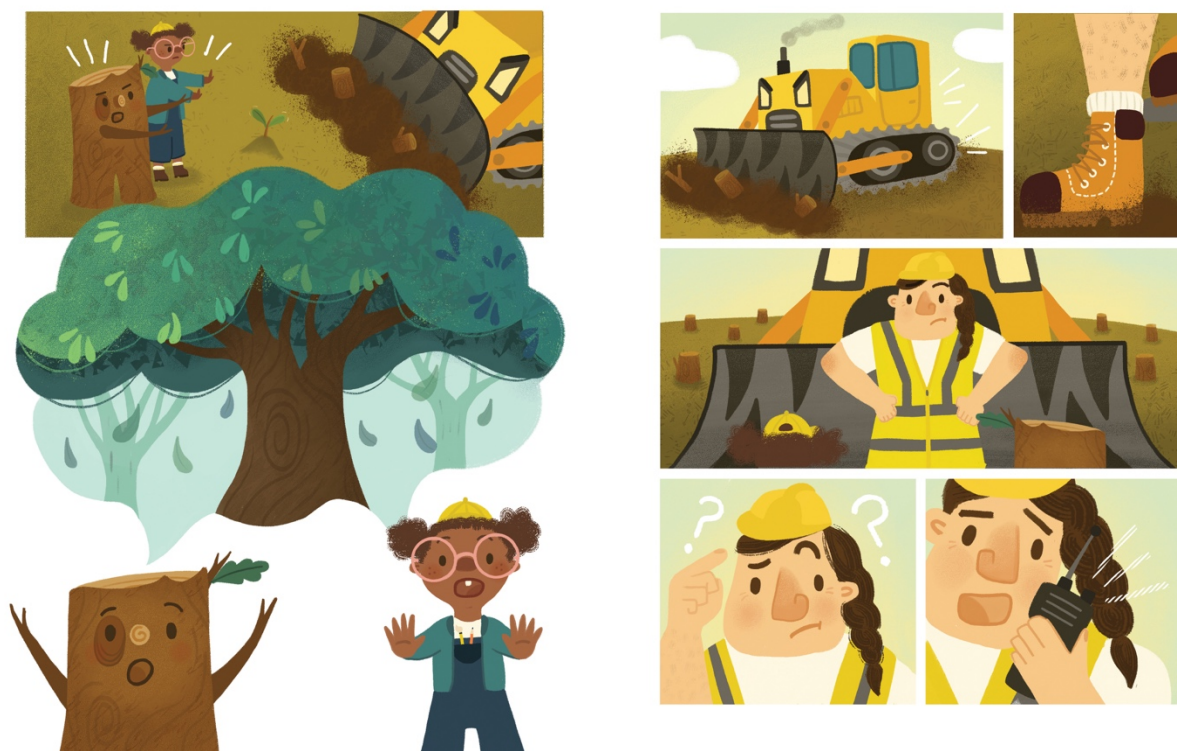
Oakie said, "Stop! Do you speak Tree?"

But the bulldozer didn't speak Tree.

Oakie covered their eyes when...

...Art reached out and took Oakie's hand.

Together, they would speak up for the forests.



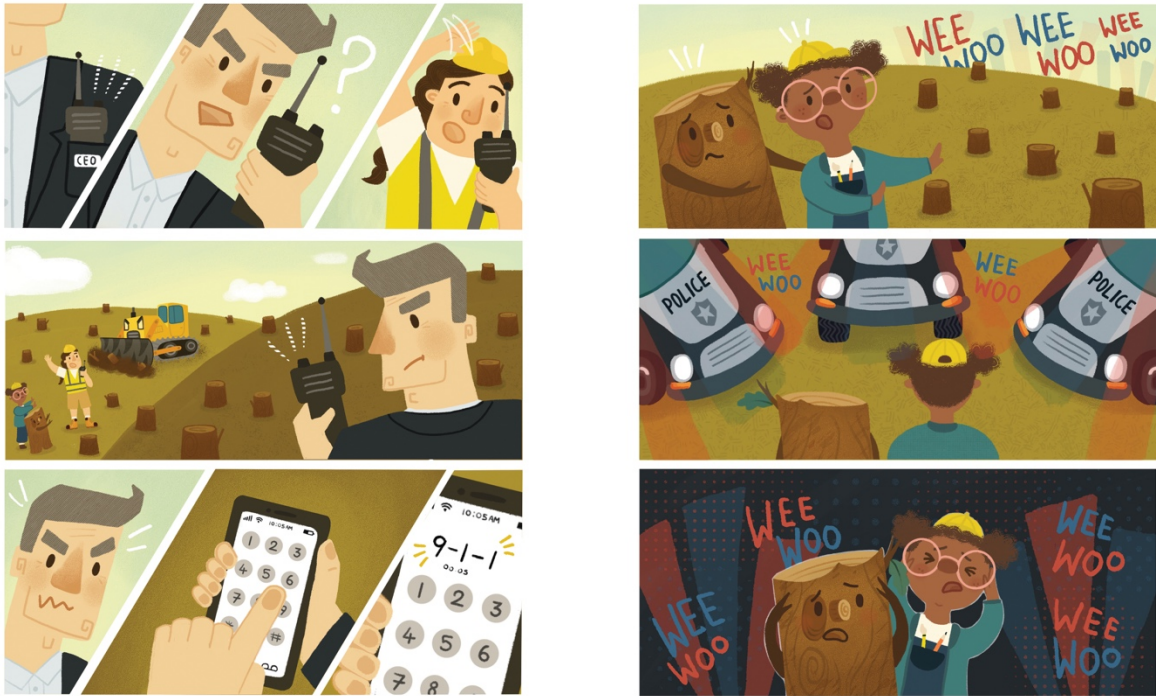
Art and Oakie told the bulldozer, "Stop."

They said, "Watch out! There's a tree!"

The bulldozer listened to them. It stopped.

A construction worker stepped out of the bulldozer, looked at Art and Oakie,
and looked really confused.

The construction worker picked up a walkie talkie and called their boss.



A mean CEO picked up his walkie talkie and said, "What?! I'm busy here."

The construction worker said, "Look! A student and a funny-looking tree are blocking the construction site. What should I do?"

Mad, the mean CEO dialed 9-1-1.

"Wee! Woo! Wee! Woo!"

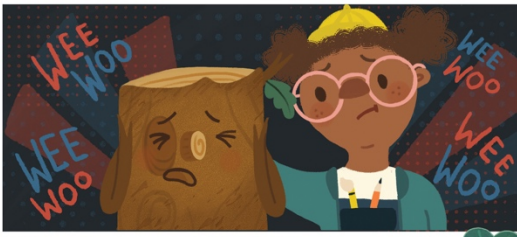
The cops arrived.

"Wee! Woo! Wee! Woo!"

Art and Oakie covered their ears.

"Wee! Woo! Wee! Woo!"

The sirens got louder and louder.



Art saw that Oakie was scared.

She ran to her friends.

She whispered to her friends, "Do you speak Tree?"

Her friends whispered to each other, "Do you speak Tree?"

Soon, all the students were cheering, "Do you speak Tree?! Do you speak Tree?!"

They cheered so loudly that a news crew showed up.

The news reporter told the whole world how Art and Oakie and all of Art's classmates were speaking up for the forests.



But the mean CEO pushed Art and Oakie out of the way and said, “STOP!”

He said, “I’m running a business here. So what if I cut down the trees?”

What I say goes and I say...”

The construction worker stepped in front of the mean CEO.

The construction worker said, “Do you speak Tree?”

Everyone cheered!

[Do you think everyone speaks Tree now?]



Everyone stormed the construction site.

They said, "Yay! Coo! Hooray! Woof! Save the trees!"

To finish off the mean CEO, a cute pigeon even pooped on the mean CEO's head.

But as everyone cheered, Oakie looked sad.

Oakie looked at their home and saw all the trees that had been cut down.



Art gave Oakie a big hug.

They looked out at the forest when...

...the squirrel came over and gave Oakie an acorn AND an idea.

Oakie picked up more acorns and handed one to Art.

Art handed an acorn to her friend. She said, "Do you speak Tree?"

Her friends said to each other, "Do you speak Tree?"

They took acorns and planted them underground.

[Why do you think they put the acorns underground?

What happens when you put an acorn or a seed underground?]



Art and Oakie planted an acorn. They buried it underground.

Over the seasons, the acorn began to grow.

It grew and it grew until it was very tall tree where animals lived.

[What animals do you see living in the tree?]



Art and Oakie sat down and looked out at Oakie's home. What a beautiful forest!