

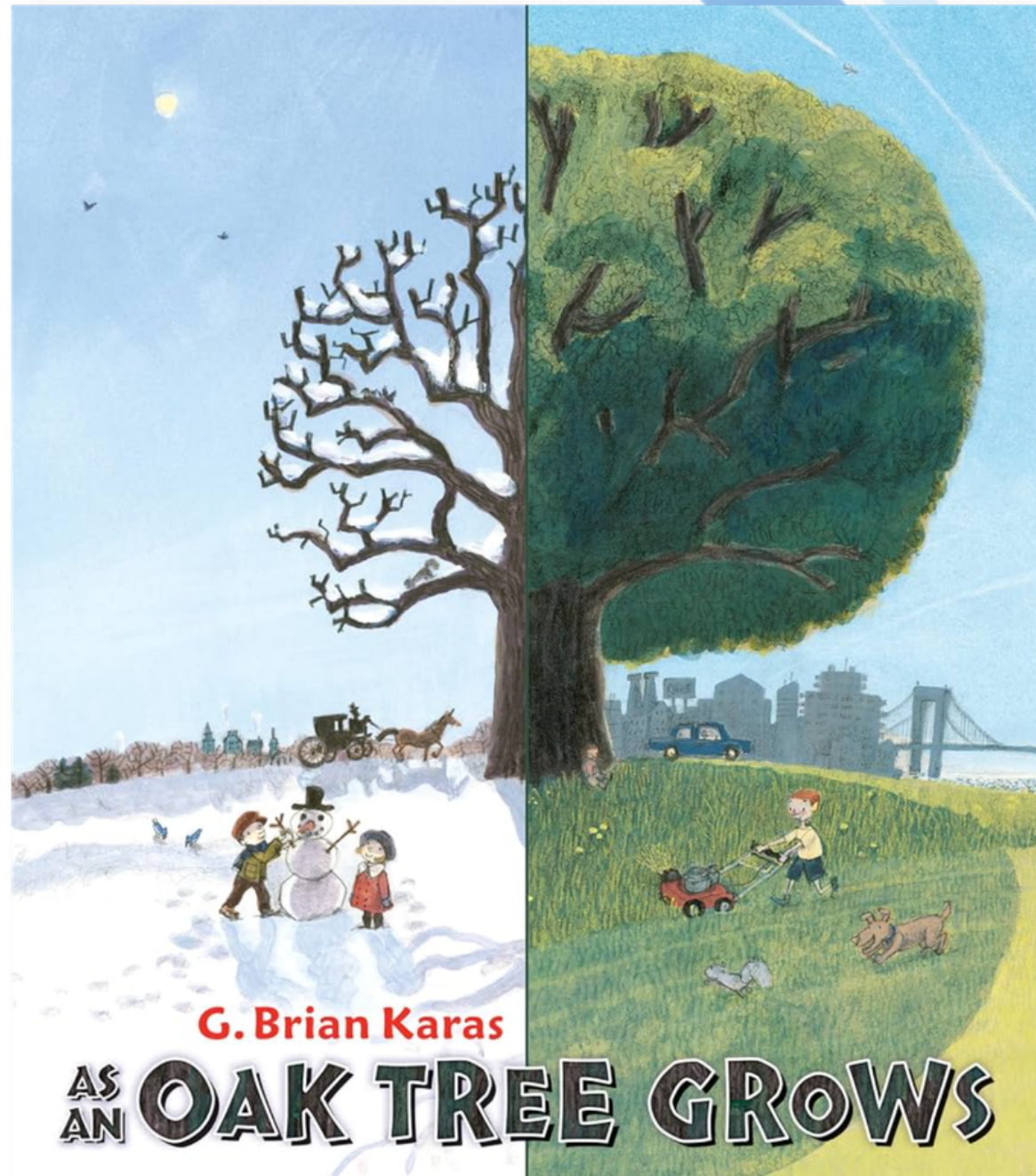
FAMILY BOOK CONNECTIONS

BOOK BRIDGES

As An Oak Tree Grows

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Summary of As An Oak Tree Grows

This book follows a small acorn that grows into a strong, mighty oak tree over the years. As the oak tree grows, the world around it changes. Different animals pass by the tree, the seasons continue to change, and people build homes. The book shows how nature and human life change over time while the tree remains in the same place. Will the tree last forever?

Read Aloud

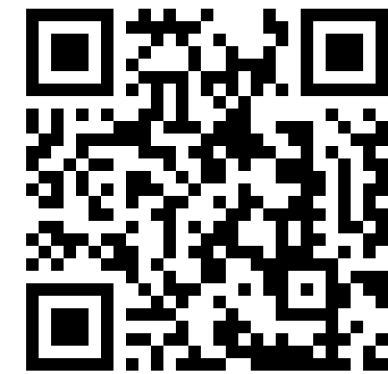


[English Youtube](#)
[Read-Aloud](#)

About the Author and Illustrator

G. Brian Karas is an American author and illustrator known for his work in children's picture books. He started his career as a greeting card artist before moving into books. Several of his books have received major awards and honors, including the New York Times Best Illustrated, Boston Globe/Horn Book Honor, ALA Notable Book, Please Touch Museum Annual Book Award, and Louisiana Young Readers' Choice Award. G. Brian Karas has many amazing books that can keep your reader engaged, such as *Home on the Bayou: A Cowboy's Story*, *On Earth*, and *Are You Going To Be Good?*

Learn More



G. Brian Karas

Questions to Ask Before, During, and After Reading

Talking about a story before, during, and after reading helps children think deeply, make connections, and build a love of reading.

i Note: This book follows a timeline of years — 1775 — 1800 — 1825 — 1875 — rather than page numbers.



Before Reading

- What do you think it means for a tree to 'grow'? Does it only mean it is going to grow taller? Taking a look at the cover, what clues do you see about time passing?
- How do seasons affect trees? What might we see in each season?



During Reading

- What season do you think it is this year? What clues helped you determine your answer?
- What changes do you notice as the tree grows larger?
- How does the town around the tree change over time?



After Reading

- What might happen to the seed (new tree) in the future?
- Why is it important that the tree stay in one place while everything else changes?
- What were the biggest changes you saw in the tree from beginning to end?
- How did the town change from the start of the book to the end?

Extending the Book with Additional Reading

1 Many lessons can be taught from *As An Oak Tree Grows*, and one of the important ones focuses on the life cycle of a tree. A perfect non-fiction children's book that emphasizes the different stages of the life cycle of a tree is called *When Tree Became a Tree* by Rob Hodgson. As this is a new book, there isn't a read-aloud option yet, but you are more than welcome to add it to your personal library by clicking the link here.



When Tree Became a Tree by Rob Hodgson

[Add to Your Library \(Library Link\)](#)

2 During the book, *As An Oak Tree Grows*, there are different seasonal changes. *A Stroll Through the Seasons* by Kay Barnham is a non-fiction informational children's book that portrays the story of a little girl and a boy who are exploring nature's changes and the effects it has on animals and plants. As you read the book, ask your reader what clues on the page show us what season it is? Have you seen something like this outside at home or school?



A Stroll Through the Seasons

[Click Here to add A Stroll Through the Seasons to your library](#)



Talk About These Questions

- How does a tree change over its life cycle?
- What clues on the page show what season it is?
- Have you seen something like this outside at home or school?

Extending the Book with Writing

For this activity, you will need a piece of paper and a pencil. You may also want technology if you want to watch the video. Help your child write a haiku poem about the oak tree's life growth!

How to Write a Haiku

- A haiku is a poem that is 3 lines.
- It consists of 5 syllables (line 1), 7 syllables (line 2), and 5 syllables (line 3).
- Counting syllables means breaking words into smaller, manageable 'beats' or 'parts' using auditory and physical cues.

[Video of How to Count Syllables](#)

Step 1: Ask your child: How did the oak tree change from an acorn to a big tree?

Step 2: Explain a haiku using the 5-7-5 pattern.

Step 3: Have them write a haiku about the oak tree's growth.

- Line 1: small beginning (acorn, seed)
- Line 2: growing or changing
- Line 3: big tree

Step 4: Read the haiku aloud together.

Example of Tree Haiku

Tiny acorn sleeps	(5 syllables)
Buried deep in soft brown soil	(7 syllables)
Strong oak touches sky	(5 syllables)



Extending the Book with Math

Materials needed for this activity include a piece of paper, a pencil, and a ruler. As an oak tree grows and is alive, the trunk grows taller and gets bigger around; it grows a new layer of wood, creating a 'ring'. Here is a fun math activity you can do with your child to calculate radius and diameter with the 'rings' of an oak tree.

Try This Math Activity

Step 1: Have your child draw a small dot or circle in the center of the piece of paper.

Step 2: Ask your child to draw a 'ring' or a circle around the center dot for each year they have been alive.

- **If you were drawing these rings for the oak tree in the book, how many rings would you have to draw?**

Step 3: Measure the distance between the middle dot and one edge of the circle. Explain that this is called the radius.

Radius: the straight distance from the exact center of a circle to any point on its outer edge.

Diameter: the total straight distance across a circle, passing directly through the center point from one side to the other. Then, have the child take their answer and multiply it by 2 to get the diameter.

Step 4: Use the rings to create a timeline of your child's life in each ring. For example: 1 year old started to walk, 3 years old started preschool, 6 years old learned how to ride a bike.

Step 5: Discuss these questions together:

- When you graduate high school at the age of 18, how many more rings would you have to add?
- How many rings have you added since you started preschool?

Extending the Book with Science

As An Oak Tree Grows focuses on the growth of an oak tree over time. Therefore, here are a couple of activities you can do to show the life cycle of a tree with your child.

1 Sprouting a Seed Activity



Materials: For this hands-on activity you will need: clear plastic cup, wet paper towel, a seed or acorn, and sunlight.



Step 1: Get the paper towel damp, not dripping.



Step 2: Place the paper towel at the bottom of the clear plastic cup.



Step 3: Put the acorn or seed between the paper towel and the cup's wall so you can see it.



Step 4: Give it a little bit of water. Keep it damp, not soaked.



Step 5: Watch as the seed starts to grow roots and sprout.



2 Movement Activity: Act Out the Tree Life Cycle



Step 1: Have your child crouch down like a tiny little seed.

Step 2: Your child is going to slowly 'grow' as the seed, showing the different stages in a tree's life.



Reach arms out = roots are growing



Stand up halfway = sprouting



Stand tall with arms out = young tree



Stand tall and stretch real big = a full oak tree



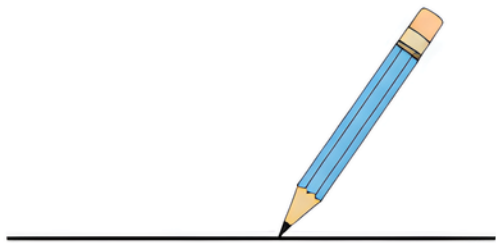
Discuss Together

- When you put your arms out, what are you showing about the tree?
- At this stage, what does the tree need to grow more? (water, soil, space, sunlight)
- When you are standing tall with your arms out, is this the last stage, or can the tree get even bigger?

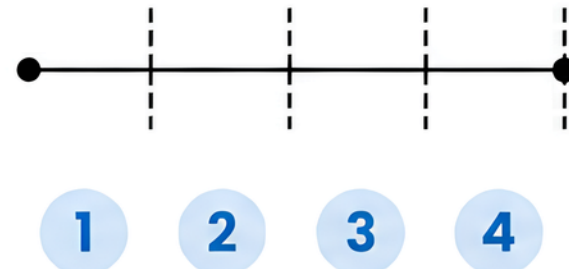
Extending the Book with Social Studies

For this activity you will need crayons, colored pencils or markers, a pencil, and a piece of paper. Throughout [As An Oak Tree Grows](#), the story moves through a timeline and shows all the changes that happen around the big oak tree. Your child can now recreate this timeline using their own drawing skills.

- 1 Draw a straight line horizontally across the paper.



- 2 Split the timeline into 4 sections to illustrate the town's development around the oak tree.



- 3 Now have your child draw 4 different development stages they saw.

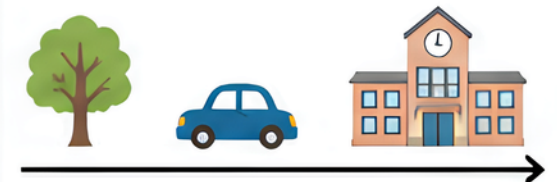
Section 1: One house

Section 2: A few houses (small community) – or one house with many more animals and a lot more land for farming

Section 3: It is now becoming a town, so more buildings and roads need to be added

Section 4: It is now a big town and city that has grown completely around the oak tree

- 4 As your child is illustrating, encourage them to add at least 2 new things to the next section to show the change over time.



If you want, you can have your child write a short story about what they drew and why in each section, or simply talk with your child about why they are drawing what they are drawing in each section.

Extending the Book with Art

To connect art to the activity you will need crayons, colored pencils or markers, a pencil, and a piece of paper. You may also want to add other craft supplies such as cotton balls, colored paper, or paint. Your child will be creating the changing of the seasons by making a comic strip.

- 1** Fold the piece of paper into 4 different sections. Each section represents a season.
- 2** Draw a tree in each section of the paper.
- 3** Have some fun by designing each section of the tree however you desire. Color it with markers, crayons, or colored pencils.
- 4** Finger paint the different leaves to match the season. Use cotton balls or other craft materials to help show each season in a creative way.

Our Seasons Comic Strip



Watch the tree change through the seasons!



LITERACY
BRIDGES