



# Thank You, Old Oak Discussion Guide

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Understanding the Story

- Old Oak lived in the forest for 400 years! What are some of the things she did for the animals during her life?
- How do the different animals say thank you to Old Oak? Which animal's thank-you did you like the most, and why?
- Old Oak falls at the beginning of the story. How do you think the animals feel when they hear the news?
- Even though Old Oak's life as a standing tree ends, she still helps the forest. Can you remember some of the ways she keeps helping after she falls?
- What does this story teach us about how forests work and how everything in nature is connected?

### Making Connections

- Why do you think the animals in the story are so grateful to Old Oak? How do you show thanks to people or things in your own life?
- Old Oak helps the animals in her community. What are some ways a big tree might also help people and the planet?

### Exploring Big Ideas

- What does it mean to be part of a community? Who or what (for example, trees, insects, wild animals) is part of your community and what are a few ways you help take care of each other?
- The story talks about Old Oak's legacy. What do you think that word means? What kind of legacy do you want to leave?
- After reading the endnotes, what's one cool or surprising thing you learned about oak trees or forest ecosystems?



### Thank You, Old Oak

Written by Britt Crow-Miller

Illustrated by Amy Schimler-Safford



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from *Thank You, Old Oak*



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# THANK YOU LETTER TO A TREE

Invite kids to choose a tree they know – a tree in their yard, neighborhood, park, or even Old Oak from the story – and write a thank-you letter to it.

## Prompt:

Dear Tree,

Thank you for...

I remember when...

You help the world by...

From,

[Name]

## Optional extension:

If possible, take a nature walk and invite children to read their thank-you letters to a real tree, just like the forest animals honored Old Oak.



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