Words to Know

- Read each Context Card.
- Choose two blue words. Use them in sentences.

1. **told**
   He **told** the class the name of the tree.

2. **night**
   The buds open in the day and close at **night**.
3. **pretty**
   This is a **pretty** wide tree trunk!

4. **window**
   The big tree is very close to the **window**.

5. **thought**
   The man **thought** about planting a tree.

6. **better**
   The tree got **better** when he watered it.

7. **turned**
   The leaves **turned** orange in the fall.

8. **saw**
   They **saw** many apples on the trees.
WORDS TO KNOW  Life in a Tree

There is a tree outside my window. One day, I saw birds and squirrels in the tree. That night I thought I would take another look. I turned on a flashlight to see better. I saw an owl in the tree. I told my dad, “That tree is a pretty busy place!”

Find the parts of a tree in the picture. What other parts do you know?
Comprehension

**TARGET SKILL** Story Structure

Remember that a story has different parts. **Characters** are the people and animals in a story. The **setting** is when and where a story takes place. The **plot** is the order of story events. The events are often about a problem and how the characters solve it.

What is the problem?  
How can it be solved?

After reading **The Tree**, tell who is in it, where they are, and what they do.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characters</th>
<th>Setting</th>
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Meet the Author

Cynthia Rylant

As a young girl, Cynthia Rylant loved animals. She still does. Ms. Rylant lives with a dog and two cats. She puts animals in the books she writes, too.

Meet the Illustrator

Mark Teague

Mark Teague didn’t go to art school. He taught himself to draw! He stays busy by working on more than one book at a time.

WORDS TO KNOW

told thought

night better

pretty turned

window saw

TARGET SKILL

Story Structure Tell the setting, character, and events in a story.

TARGET STRATEGY

Analyze/Evaluate Tell how you feel about the text, and why.

GENRE

A fantasy story could not happen in real life.
THE TREE
from POPPLETON FOREVER

by CYNTHIA RYLANT
illustrated by MARK TEAGUE

Essential Question
What do characters do when there is a problem?
Poppleton planted a new little tree in his yard.
It was a dogwood.
Poppleton liked it very much.
He watered it every day.
He gave it tree food.
He staked it against the wind.
The little tree grew strong and fast.
Poppleton was pleased.
Then one day the tree looked awful.
Its leaves drooped.
Its bark peeled.
It turned from green to brown.
“Oh no!” said Poppleton,
when he saw his tree.
He called the tree doctor.
“Come right away!” said Poppleton.
The tree doctor came to look at Poppleton’s tree.

STOP AND THINK
Story Structure How do you think Poppleton will solve his problem? Read to find out.
He tapped it. He stroked it. He felt its trunk and leaves. The tree doctor said to Poppleton, “This tree needs something, but I don’t know what it is.”
“Can’t you just give it a pill?” asked Poppleton.

“It isn’t sick,” said the tree doctor. “It needs something.” Poppleton did not know what his little tree needed.
He tapped it. He stroked it.
He felt its trunk and leaves.
But he did not know.
Poppleton sat up with his tree all night, wondering what it needed.
In the morning he went for help.
“What does my tree need?” Poppleton asked Hudson down the street.
“A piece of cheese?” said Hudson.
Poppleton gave the tree a piece of cheese, but it didn’t help.
“What does my tree need?” Poppleton asked Newhouse, the delivery dog. “A bone?” said Newhouse.
Poppleton gave the tree a bone, but it didn’t help.
Poppleton went to see Cherry Sue.
“What does my tree need?” Poppleton asked Cherry Sue. Cherry Sue looked out her window at the little tree.
She thought and thought. Then she said, “If I were that tree, I would need a bird feeder.”
“A bird feeder?” asked Poppleton.
“Trees want birds,” said Cherry Sue. “Why do you think they hold out their arms all day?”
Poppleton bought a bird feeder for his little tree.
A sparrow came, and a leaf turned green.

A cardinal came, and another leaf turned green.

A bluebird came, and three leaves turned green.
Poppleton’s tree got better.
Soon all of its leaves were green.
“You are a pretty smart llama,”
Poppleton told Cherry Sue.
Cherry Sue said yes.
Then they had lemonade and watched the birds.
Grammar

Subject Pronouns  Words that can take the place of nouns are called pronouns. The pronouns he, she, and it name one. The pronouns we and they name more than one.

Ben watered the tree.
He watered the tree.
The tree grew.
It grew.

Birds loved the tree.
They loved the tree.

Lily fed the birds.
She fed the birds.
Choose the correct pronoun to name each picture. Write it on a sheet of paper. Then say a sentence to a partner about each picture. Use the pronoun.

1. she    he
2. they   it
3. it     we
4. they   she
5. we     he

Grammar in Writing
When you proofread your writing, be sure you have used pronouns correctly.