



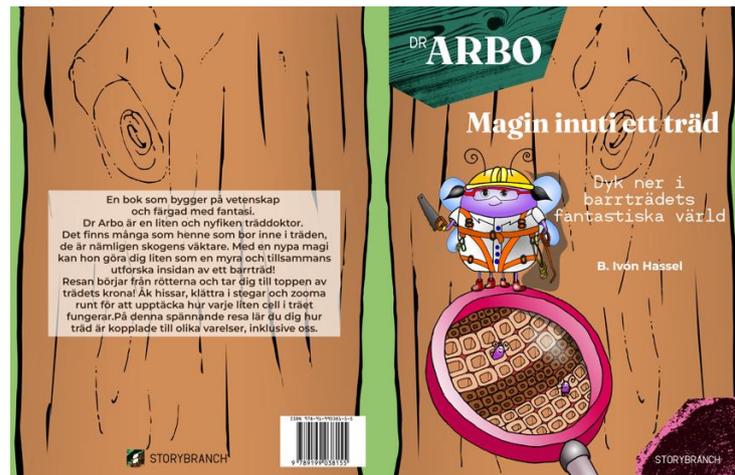
STORYBRANCH

Inspiring sustainability through
science and storytelling

Workshop: "The Magic Within a Tree"

Overview

This workshop is based on the illustrated science book "The Magic Within a Tree" and aims to educate children about tree anatomy, ecology, and forest importance through engaging, hands-on activities and storytelling. It encourages curiosity, ecological awareness, and a sense of guardianship towards nature, aiming to reinforce our connection with nature.



Information

About the facilitator: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/ivon-hassel-phd-37a9a355/>

Interactive display. Mycorrhizal network: <https://youtu.be/DJDJ-RZswPs>

Interactive display. 3D wood model: <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DPla9cQggmR/>

Book: <https://youtu.be/g36EmNxPGMU>

SciFest Uppsala 2025: <https://youtu.be/oXMdjVyhzfQ>

Languages Offered: Spanish, English, Swedish

Age Group: 6–12 years

Total Duration: Approximately 60 minutes

Price: Contact ivon.hassel@thetorybranch.com

Goals

- Educate children about the anatomy of softwood trees.
- Foster awareness of forest ecology and the mycorrhizal network.
- Inspire children to become guardians of the forest.
- Make learning fun and interactive through storytelling and activities.

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Workshop Structure and Timeline

1. Opening and guiding question (10 minutes)

Welcome and warm-up:

- Introduction of the facilitator very shortly.
- Set music with sounds of nature. Greet participants, and tell them to listen carefully, close their eyes and think that they are in a wonderful place in the nature, it can be a forest, a lake, even a garden with greens. Give them some seconds and then ask them where they imagined they were and what they saw and liked best.
- I'm sure you've seen many of them, they're almost everywhere! Do you have a favorite tree? Have you ever listened to the sounds trees make; the rustling leaves, the creaking branches? Something interesting is that trees are rarely alone. Have you noticed why? Who might live in them, or come to visit? And you; do you ever visit trees?
- Introduce the theme "the magic within a tree", the book's story and its characters.
- Guiding question: "What makes a tree more than just wood?" At the end, I'll return to this question with a clear, magical answer.

2. Story time (20 minutes)

Purpose:

To immerse children in the story of Doctor Arbo, highlighting key aspects of tree anatomy and ecology.

- Display large, **printed posters** illustrating pages from the book (without text).
- *If available:* Combine the large prints with projected images of the book, creating an immersive "inside the tree" experience.
- Read selected passages aloud from the beginning of the book (introducing concepts such as the story, the character, the forest, the fact that a tree has different layers, and fungal interaction and forest connectivity)
- **Interactive Exhibits:** It includes three exploratory short activities: a) Tactile exploration of different parts of trees, b) Exploration of a 3D model of wood including each layer, and c) Observation of microscopic images, "how things look in reality".

3. Break: Forest movement break (10 minutes). Two educational games that allow participants to collaborate and connect with each other and move their bodies:

- a. Tree tag b. Nature Dance

4. Interconnection in the forest through the mycorrhizal network (approx. 5 minutes)

- Short introduction to the concept, how it works and why it is important.
- Use a **display with glow in the dark** to create impact.

5. Hands-on Activities (15-20 minutes) (possibilities):

- Game: match the images, SEM and caricatures
- Find the differences between the images, with given explanations of the missing parts.
- Mycorrhizal Network Simulation
- Draw your own tree with personality
- Coloring & Drawing

Discussion & Reflection (5 minutes)

- Answer the question from the beginning of the session: Remember we asked: What makes a tree more than just wood? Now we know; it's a living network, a memory keeper, a dancer in the wind!"

Let the participants add their ideas and comments, ask them also how can we all take care of forests, caring for trees, reducing waste, keeping our cities clean and supporting forest conservation.

Closure & Celebration

- Distribute **printed diplomas** to each guardian of the forest.

Additional Notes

- **Materials Used in The Workshops (provided by the facilitator):** Printed posters, tactile models, real wood/leaves/bark, coloring supplies, yarn or pencils, printed drawings, information signs, tags with names for game, game of matching figures, game missing details printed, diplomas printed, pens, books to sell, book to read from, recorded sound, sound player.
- **Materials Needed from/the venue:** Projector, chairs and tables, sound player, information about the area, including walls and curtains to project images, surfaces place informative images.

We look forward to inspiring young minds to appreciate and protect the incredible world of trees and forests!