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HOW WOULD YOU BE
IF YOU WERE A TREE
NARRATED BY TEXAS TOAD
FEATURING S. POPCORN



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How Would You Be If You Were a Tree?

By: Katrin Abel and Joshua Adrian
Narrated by: Toby the Texas Toad

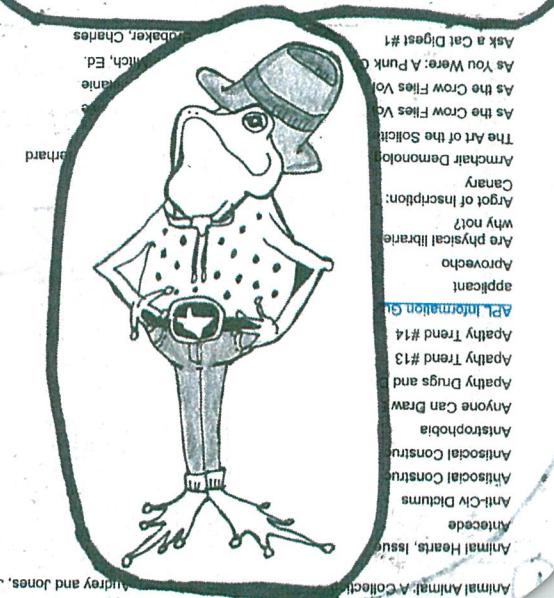


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Imagine: This is you. You are eight years old and can expect to live to about 78 years old if all goes well. You have lived about 10% of your life so far. You have grown to 50 inches tall, or about 6.25 inches per year. That's just how you are, and that's great. But how would you be if you were a tree?



(2)

What if you were an old tree?

If you were a maidenhair tree (*Ginkgo biloba*), you would be 100 years old already and could expect to live 900 more. You would grow 16 inches per year, up to 115 ft. Right now you'd be $11 \frac{1}{2}$ feet tall. You'd be covered in stinky, slimy fruit with a semi-edible green kernel on the inside, but tell whoever's nibbling you to be careful because that kernel is toxic in large amounts.



Ready to get older and taller? If you were a monkey puzzle tree (*Araucaria araucana*), you would grow 148 feet tall in 1,800 years. For now you'd be 180 years old and almost 15 feet tall. Your monkey

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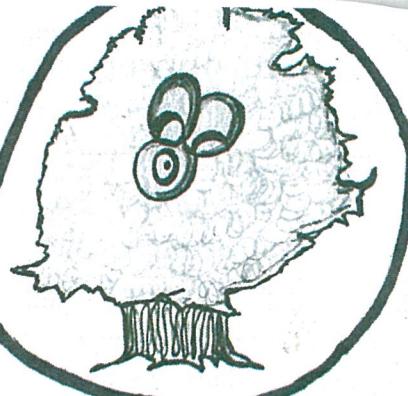
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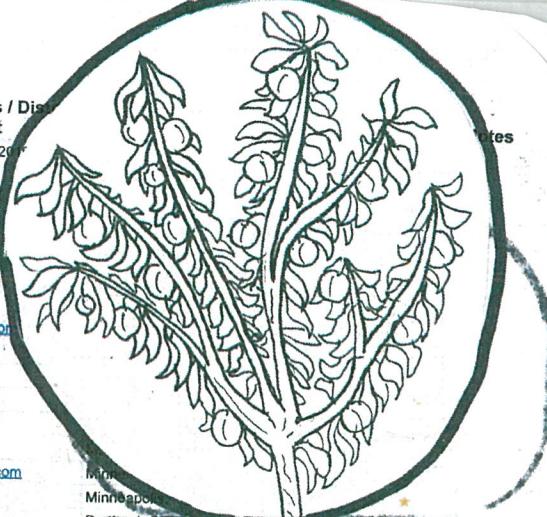
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puzzle family tree would be so
ancient that your relatives co-
existed with the dinosaurs.



What if you were old but slow and short? If you were a yew (*Taxus baccata*), you would live 5,000 years but grow only 6 inches per year to 66 ft. At this point, you'd be 500 years old but only about six feet tall, close in size to a human adult. On the other hand, you'd be super-poisonous all over, except for the bright red flesh of your seeds.

What if you weren't an old tree at all? What if your tree life were very short compared to the lives of your tree friends? You would probably be pretty short, too. If you were a citron (*citrus medica*), you'd live only 50 years and top out at 16 feet tall. Currently, you'd be 5 years old and less than two feet tall, but your fruit would be huge—five pounds or more in size if left unpicked. Now that's a big lemon!



Even shorter-lived is the peach tree (*Prunus persica*). If you were a peach, you'd live only 20 years and reach 20 feet if you were lucky. That would make you 2 years old and 2 feet tall now. Are you picturing yourself as the fruit in the

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Not tall enough? What if you were a Norfolk island pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*)? At only 17 years old now, you'd already be over 21 feet tall, reaching 213 feet in 170 years. On top of that, you'd be a natural air purifier—a literal breath of fresh air!

Fun fact: What if you weren't tall but wide? The widest tree is the great banyan (*Ficus benghalensis*), which is only 80 feet tall but a shocking 1,600 feet around its trunk. For you, that would be like 50 inches tall, but 1,000 inches around your tummy. Good luck finding a proper pair of pants!



Cartoon Dialectics

Kaczynski, Tom
Winters, Mike

- A Catalog of American Girl Characters 2
- Catharsis #1
- Catharsis #3
- Catharsis #4
- Catharsis #5

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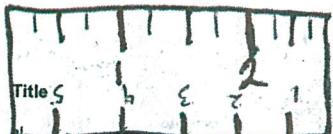
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Ready to get really big? You'd want to be a Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*). You'd be 65 years old and 33 feet tall already, on your way to 330 feet in 650 years. From your lofty height you could chat with the nearby sequoias (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*), which grow 13–24 inches per year, up to 311 feet—almost as tall as you! You'd also be one of the world's most popular Christmas trees, so watch out for lumberjacks and families wielding saws and axes.



Title

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Author

G. Will

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Abe, Katrin

Ware, Chris

Brown, Bill

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Accidental Needle Stick (#1)

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Action Professor Know-it-all's illustrated guide
to film & video making

Adris

Too scary! **Let's talk about fast-and slow-growing trees.** We'll start with the slowpokes. If you were a Chinese plum (*Prunus mume*), it would take you 100 years to grow 33 ft, at only 5 inches per year. So far you'd be 10 years old and 3 feet tall. You'd be small and slow, but you wouldn't mind because you'd also be a harbinger of spring, displaying some of the season's earliest blossoms.

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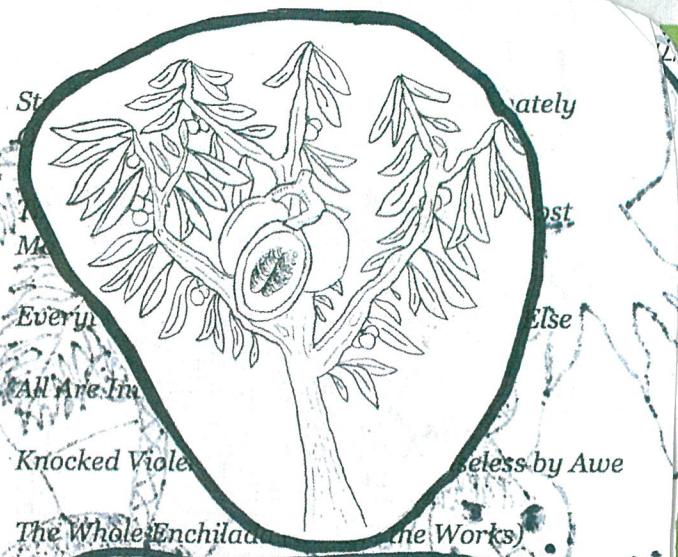
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Not slow enough? If you were a cedar of Lebanon (*Cedrus libani*), you'd need 2,000 years to grow 130 feet. You'd crawl along at 3 inches per year. At this point, you'd be 200 years old and 13 feet tall.

Luckily, you could survive

temperatures from -22 to 86 degrees Fahrenheit. Just imagine all the places you could live throughout your long, slow life.



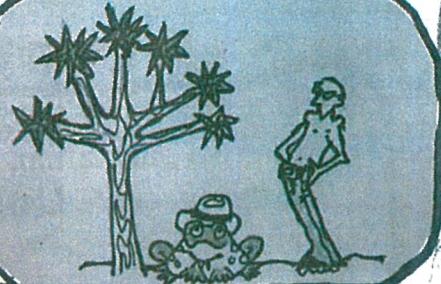
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Hearables

Jace's playlist "A Thirsty Life from Nowhere"



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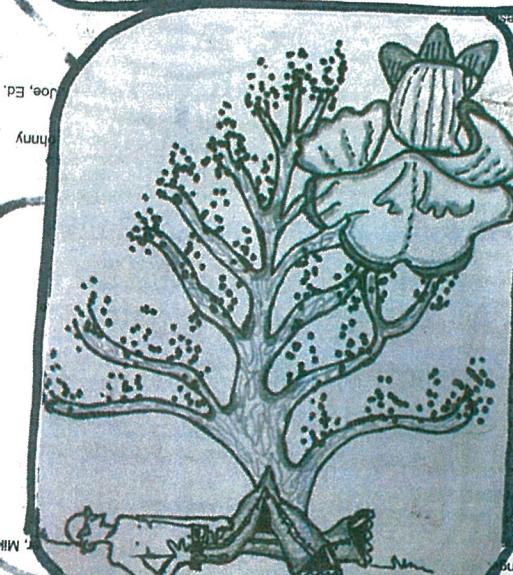


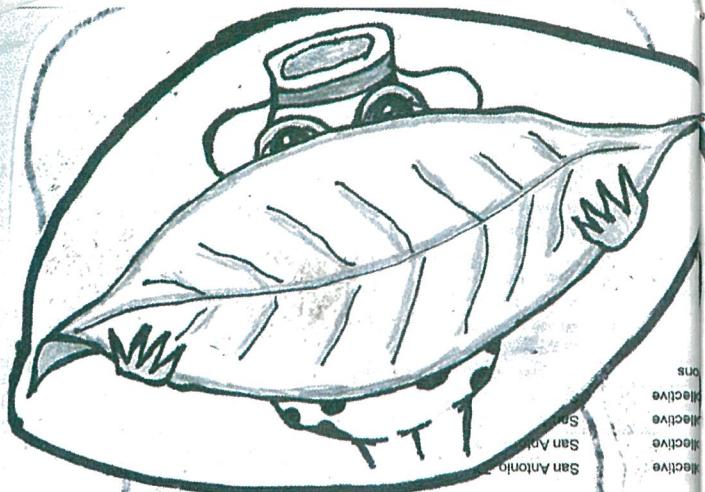
Fun fact: The slowest tree of them all is the Joshua tree (*Yucca brevifolia*), and it's technically not actually a tree! (It's a member of the agave family, which technically isn't a cactus!) You could stare down a Joshua tree for a year and it wouldn't budge even two inches.)

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Vroom-vroom, let's speed it up! If you were a Tasmanian blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*), you'd grow 230 feet in just 200 years, much of it at an astounding 12 feet per year. An 8-year-old human who grew that fast would be 96 feet all already! You'd be in a close race with the neighboring hybrid popular (*Populus deltoides* x *Populus nigra*), who's equally fast. You'd be tough, too, able to survive a fire by regrowing from dormant buds beneath your burnt bark.

Fastest of all is the empress tree (*Paulownia tomentosa*). If you were an empress, you would grow up to 16 feet in a year, reaching 82 feet in 50 years. A human who grew that fast would be 128 feet tall





at your age. How would you shop for clothes? How much would you eat? As a tree, you would be not only speedy but beautiful, with huge leaves as wide as 2 feet across each. You could sew outfits out of your own leaves!

Wow, that's a lot of trees. **Out of all the trees in the world, which would you be?** Why not the good old sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*)? You'd grow 18 inches per year up to 130 feet and would enjoy a nice, long life of 400 years. For now, you'd be 40 years old and 13 feet tall, and it would take almost six gallons of sap to produce one pint of maple syrup. Delicious! Tap me now, I can't wait!





Remember: Old or young, tall or short, fast or slow, **they're all good trees**. If you were a tree, how would you be?

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