Because of an Acorn

Introducing children to ecology when they a young is a very good thing and Lola Schaefer’s book, Because o an Acorn, is a good way to do it. The author takes the readers on a visit to a oak forest and introduced some of the relationships between the plants and animals that live there. Written for children five and six years old, the book presents the concepts simply and uses the illustrations to further the concepts.

The story begins with a simple statement, ‘Because of an acorn, a tree and goes on to show how the tree supports a bird, a bird cuss the seed to fall to the ground, the seed produces a plant with a flower, the flower produces a fruit, the fruit is food for a chipmunk that attracts a snake that in turn is attracts a hawk, and the hawk causes an acorn to fall from a tree when is perches on one of its branches. The last phrase, “because of an acorn…” brings us full circle and a bit more, because not just a tree results but a whole forest. The circular nature of the story is emphasized by the inclusion of a cutout in the beginning and end of the book. The interdependency of the living members of the forest as well as the idea of a food chain beginning with plants and ending with a top carnivore is logically developed in a cause and effect way without showing any gory details. Supplemental material at the end of the book includes information on white oak trees, the concept of ecosystem, and the importance of conserving resources.

The language and phrases used are simple and clear while the illustrations are lavish and complicated. They are clearly related to the text but offer a whole lot more in terms of enjoying and understanding the words. Done is many shades of green enlivened by dashes of color in other earthy hues, the pictures are delightful by themselves and capture the essence of a walk in the forest. An inspirational read and a wonderful book to share with young children.

To buy **name of book** from Amazon.com<a href= https://www.amazon.com/Because-Acorn-Lola-M-Schaefer/dp/1452112428/ref=as\_li\_ss\_tl?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1520201611&sr=1-1&keywords=Because+of+an+acorn&dpID=61lu2c0dY0L&preST=\_SX218\_BO1,204,203,200\_QL40\_&dpSrc=srch&linkCode=ll1&tag=karensgardentips-20&linkId=39323b2fb576f5010b73be6055082f8b> Click Here.</a>

e concept of food chains and ecosystems. The book is enriched by the beautiful illustrations created by Frann Preston-Gannon.

"Because of an acorn, a tree." begins the story. A cutaway on the first page forms the cup of the acorn and you discover a sprouting sappling when you turn the page. The cutaway and sapling returns in the final pages, this time the leaf of the white oak reveals a forest with a page turn.

Schaefer's gently poetic prose leads the reader through the forest, from an acorn to a tree to a bird who knocks seeds from a pod in the tree. These seeds lead to flowers, fruit... and a chipmunk. The chipmunk attracts a snake, but the snake attracts a hawk. Landing in a tree, the snake in its claws, the hawk causes an acorn to tumble to the ground, which takes the text back to the opening lines, ending with, "Because of an acorn, a forest."

This amazing book gives its readers an intimate visit with nature. The illustratoions add so much enrichment and beauty to the narrative. Her illustrations are simply fantastic. I highly recommend this book.

PreS-Gr 1-This small book provides an elementary-level look at the way even an acorn plays an important role in the ecosystem. From the acorn comes a tree. The tree is a home to birds that scatter seeds. Seeds become flowers that bear appetizing fruit. The fruit attracts hungry chipmunks that entice hunter snakes. A watchful hawk, however, swoops down to catch its slithering prey. As the hawk stands guard in the oak tree, an acorn falls. And so another tree is born, and another, and soon there is a forest. Each page is laid out with only a few words or a single phrase. The pen-and-ink illustrations have an earth-tone palette and are enhanced digitally. The back matter consists of a glossary of important terms, such as ecosystem and saplings, and provides further information on how acorns nourish the forest animals. A few paragraphs explaining the importance of forests to the environment, specifically those in the Cumberland Plateau, is appended. VERDICT For the youngest readers and listeners, this is a simple but attractive introduction to nature's life cycles.-Roxanne Burg, Orange County Public Library, CA