Pre-reading
Group discussion questions:
How many of you have spent time near a tree? What might you find near or on a tree? Why sounds might you hear? Why are trees important? How do people use trees?

Knowledge
The title of the book is The Busy Tree. What do you think the book will be about? Given a list of objects in the book, identify them as living and non-living.

Comprehension
(After reading the story)
Describe in your own words what the story was about. The story begins in the tree’s roots and ascends up the tree with each page turn: sequence the events in the story from bottom to top, in a linear fashion.

Application
Sort the living organisms in the book as plant or animal. Describe how plants and animals depend on non-living parts of their habitat. Recognize that an ecosystem is made up of parts that are dependent upon each other, and that in one part will affect the entire system.

Multiple Intelligence Activities for The Busy Tree

Verbal/Linguistic
Write your own story about a tree
-or-
Write a series of haiku poems (5-7-5 syllables) about a tree or the scenes or animals in the book.

Visual/Spatial
Create tree-themed artwork. Press leaves and create shapes and designs with them.

Musical/Rhythmic
Encourage students to clap to the beat as the story is read. Allow children to pantomime the animal actions in the story. Invite children to impersonate a tree.

Interpersonal
Choose an animal from The Busy Tree to research. Create posters with facts about your animal and share what you learned. Spend time with a tree, documenting sights and sounds. Note the different textures (bark, leaves). Sketch or photograph your tree throughout the seasons.

Analyze
How is a deciduous forest ecosystem similar to a rainforest ecosystem? How are they different? Compare and contrast both, using a Venn Diagram. Group or classify organisms in The Busy Tree by class or physical characteristics. (e.g. mammal, bird, insect, by texture, shape, color.)

Synthesize
Imagine you are an animal who depends a tree for survival. Which animal would you be? Where on the tree would you make your home? Do you think the things the animals do in this book are true, or factual? Why or why not?

Evaluation
Which illustration is your favorite? Why? Why are trees important? In what ways do trees serve people? How do trees serve the planet? Name the basic needs of all plants (light, water, air).

Marshall Cavendish Children www.marshallcavendish.us/kids
The Busy Tree

Written by Jennifer Ward
Illustrated by Lisa Falkenstern

Spectacular illustrations and a rhyming text describe the amazing activities that go on in a tree from its roots to its top. Chipmunks nibbling acorns, ants scurrying across a trunk, a spider spinning a web, leaves “breathing out air for all to breathe in” – everything adds up to a busy tree for all to look at and enjoy!

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Ages 3 to 8 - 32 pages - fully illustrated
7 ¼ x 11 5/8

Visit us on the web at
www.marshallcavendish.us/kids

I’m a tree, a busy tree...
come and see.

THEMATIC CONNECTIONS
 Biomes, animals and nature
 Rhyme
 Circular Stories
 Ecosystems
 Plants

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