

EMMA THE ELM



By: City tree TEAF kids

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Emma the elm was a city tree.
She lived in a beautiful city, in a
park, near a college with lots of other
very big elm trees that were much,
much older than her.



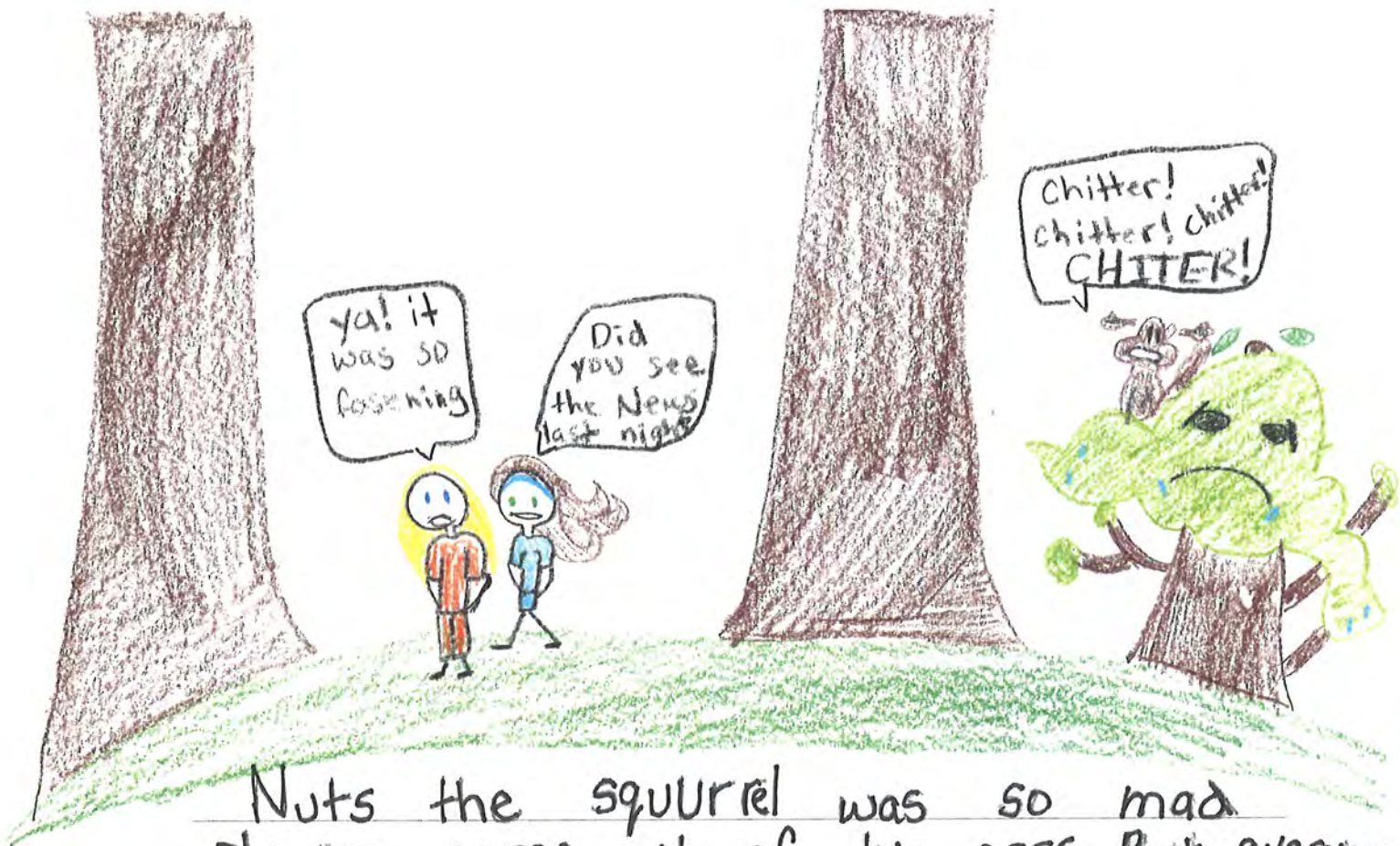
Emma did not like being a city tree. She said "Being a city tree is such hard work!" And no one appreciates us!" Yeh. Said her best friend Nuts the squirrel, "No one appreciates you as much as I do."



Emma asked the much, much older elm trees, "Do the people know that we are cleaning their air? Do they know that we are helping clean their water?" The older elm trees just nodded and said, "That's the job of a city tree. It's an important job." Emma wasn't so sure. Sometimes she just wanted to pick up and move to the forest with Nuts.



The next day, a man came to mow the lawn at the park. He drove the lawnmower too close to Emma and ripped off a big chunk of her bark. Then a dog peed on her. Later a boy and a girl carved their initials inside a big heart on Emma's bark.



Nuts the squirrel was so mad steam came out of his ears. But everyone ignored his angry chittering. "yah I'm fed up too!" said Nuts. The much, much older elm trees just nodded.



Just then, a group of children came walking by with their teacher. They noticed Emma. They asked their teacher why her bark was hurt and they decided that Emma needed help. They asked their teacher if they could adopt Emma.



They came every week and watered her. They also talked to people about how important trees are and they made a sign to put next Emma, so everyone would know to protect trees.



And the kids work made Emma smile. And
it made a difference! And Nuts felt good too!!



And that afternoon, the man with the lawnmower came back. But he stopped a good distance away, took a brown paper sack off his mower and brought it over to Emma. Then, sat in her shade and ate his lunch from the brown paper sack.



The shade Emma made on that hot, sweltering day was big enough that a few other people could sit there too. One read a book. The other was writing and listening to music. When a light breeze ruffled through her leaves, Emma thought she heard one of the people sigh a contented sigh.



"I guess being a city tree isn't so bad after all Nuts" said Emma. And the much, much older elms trees just nodded.



During the Spring of 2012, Tualatin Elementary offered an afterschool class all about Trees. Students learned how trees grow & how they benefit people. They also learned how important trees are to the health of vibrant cities. This story grew (like a seed) from that class.

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