

# Conversation Guide for Tree Branch House Story

Growing Optimism, December 2021

**We suggest you read the story first.**

**Then return to this Conversation Guide.**

Did you use/view the Branch House Video example in the book - at the end of the story? This video offers a visual of a tree branch house (as compared to a treehouse).

As you move through the story, here are “conversation questions/points” you can use to engage listeners with the story.

Also, if you have suggested conversation points/questions, please send them via this [email](#). We'll add them to the website for others to review and answer!

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## Suggested Questions and Requests

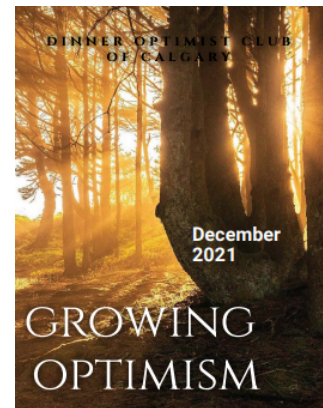
Is it important, when you visit a forest, to arrive prepared for the activities you have planned? What would your checklist include?

When you enter a forest and/or gather with trees (a tree) in the park to say hello is it helpful to share a ceremony? Would you ask a tree for permission to touch it?

Who is the Elf Fey? Is it useful to know who they are when visiting a forest?

What can you learn from the Elders of your family about forests? Of what they share, what is fact? What is fiction?

What are the names of the children? What can you say about their names?



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What is the Whistle Song? Why is the Whistle Song important for a group visiting the forest?

What is the importance of storytelling? Do you have a story about trees you can share?

Seems storytelling is a practiced skill - would you agree and why? How can you improve, strengthen, and focus your storytelling?

Seems the group meets before they visit the forest. What might be the reasons to meet before visiting the forest?

Earlier you learned the names of the five children. And at the beginning of the story, you know the Five originate from three families (2+2+1). Who is a family of 2? Who is the other family of 2? How did you come to that conclusion?

At the end of the story, you are asked for your answer to the second question? What is your answer?

What is your answer to the first question?

What is the difference between a spruce tree and an aspen tree?

Where in the world might the children live to visit a forest of spruce and aspen?

The picture on page 36 of Growing Optimism: What is the name of the tree?  
(Larch)

How does the concept and practices of being optimistic fit into the story?

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What image in the story can you draw? Are you willing to draw it? If yes, please send a copy of the picture for the next issue of Growing Optimism.

What image in the story is important to you? And why?

What is the wording of a ceremony you would offer to the forest upon arrival? If you are willing to share the ceremonial words with us, we will add them to the next issue of Growing Optimism.

What is the shape of the hexagon? What might a hexagonal shape represent? Who was sitting where in the hexagonal shape? And why are you suggesting this sitting arrangement?

What is a grove? What would the grove look like if you draw it from a bird's eye view (that is, as you looked at the grove from above?) If you are willing to share your picture, we will add it to the next issue of Growing Optimism.

Who are the Elders mentioned in the story? In what ways does each elder contribute to the children's visit to the forest?

The tree Presence is a mature tree. How old is Presence - considering Presence is in a Spruce and Aspen Forest?

Would you like to have the middle name of Adventure? Why?

Do you have a question for the author of the story?

And if you write a tree-related story, send it to us for inclusion in the next issue of Growing Optimism. Will you?