



LIFE cycle

In the story, THE VERY LAST LEAF, Lance Cottonwood is a leaf from a Lanceleaf Cottonwood tree. Cottonwood trees are deciduous, meaning they drop their leaves in autumn. In the story, Lance goes through some changes.

Draw a picture of each stage.

BUD

BLOOM

PIGMENT CHANGE

FALL





Lance Cottonwood has to show courage and confidence to do the thing he's scared of...falling from the tree.

Courage is doing hard things even though you're scared.

Can you draw a picture and write about a time that you showed courage?

Teacher's GUIDE

STEM-FOCUSED QUESTIONS

THE VERY LAST LEAF by Stef Wade addresses a variety of STEM-focused material involving the life cycle of a leaf and plant biology. Below are questions to discuss with your students, based off the material in the book.

1. Lance Cottonwood is a leaf from a Lanceleaf Cottonwood tree. Lanceleaf Cottonwoods are deciduous. What does deciduous mean?
2. Doug Fir is an evergreen. What does it mean to be an evergreen?
3. What does Lance start out as?
4. Trees use a process called _____ to use sunlight to create food.
5. _____, the dark green part of the cell in leaves, create glucose. What does glucose do?
6. What is pigment changing?
7. Why do leaves fall?



Teacher's GUIDE



SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

In *THE VERY LAST LEAF*, Lance Cottonwood, must face his fears. Lance deals with many issues facing our students today: perfectionism, anxiety, self-confidence, and more. Below is a list of questions to discuss with your students to address these issues.

1. Lance is used to being the best at everything. This makes him feel like he always needs to be perfect. Do we have to be perfect? Why or why not?
2. Falling from the tree makes Lance scared. Is there anything you are afraid of? What do you do when you're afraid?
3. The other students in the class sometimes say things to Lance to make him feel bad. Do the leaf friends in the book change how they act toward Lance? What kind of words should we use if we have a friend who is scared?
4. Lance talks to his teacher, Mrs. Timber, to help him through his fear. He thinks about the different reasons he is scared. How does this help Lance?
5. Lance has to show courage when he falls from the tree. What does courage mean to you?
6. Lance also has to show confidence when falling from the tree. What does confidence mean to you?
7. Should Lance be proud of himself after he falls, even though he is the last one to fall? Why or why not?