



Call Me Tree Gender Free

a note to my readers...

You may or may not notice something different about my new book, *Call Me Tree*. Nowhere in the story are boy/girl pronouns used. No 'he' or 'she' anywhere! I found it easy to write this way because that's how I think of kids, as kids, not boy kids or girl kids.

I even requested that no 'he' or 'she' be used anywhere else in the book, like on the end pages or the back cover when talking about the story. I also asked the publisher to only refer to the main character as a child or kid when they talked about my book out in the world. Because I wanted *Call Me Tree* to be gender free!

Why? I'm glad you asked

Two reasons come to the top of my mind.

First, I know a lot of people. Some don't feel that they fit into the boy or the girl box and of course, some do! By not using 'he' or 'she', I could include everyone! This is very important to me. **I want everyone to know that we all belong!**

And second, I thought it would be a great opportunity to talk about the main character in *Call Me Tree*. Let's call them 'Tree'. Tree is like a lot of people I know, including my own kids! Strong, curious, free! Now, if you were going to guess if Tree is a 'he' or a 'she', which do you think?

I'm going to guess you'd say 'he' first, maybe because Tree's already been called 'he' by folks who have given *Call Me Tree* some really awesome reviews. Tree could be he, but maybe not! A lot of times we make guesses based on what we think is true, but sometimes that can leave people out. **Tree's reminding us there are lots of different ways to be!**

I just remembered another top reason.

People who don't fit into the boy or the girl box get teased more than anybody. This is extra not cool to me. I happen to know all kids rock, so I want to make sure the ones that get picked on the most know they rock! Right?!

So *Call Me Tree* is gender free! Because all trees belong!

Try it on for a day. Play with not being called 'he' or 'she', but only Tree, tall and strong! Just for one day, or even one afternoon. Would anything feel different? Would you be different?

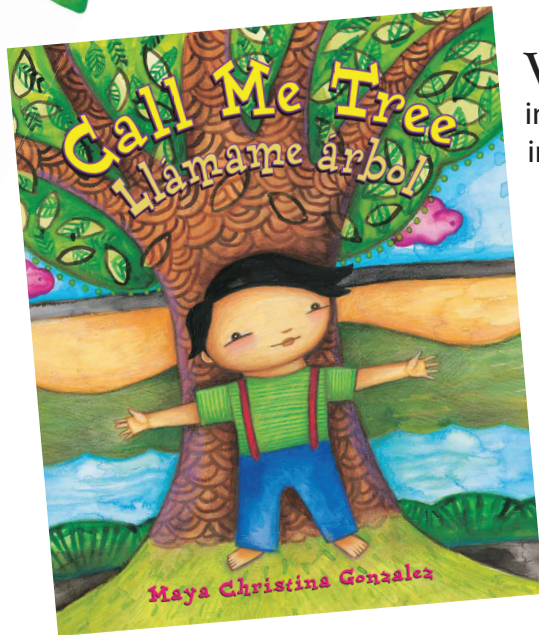
Let's call it Tree Day.

Let's all be free. Let's all be trees!
Whatdya think?

Call me Tree!

Love, mayatree





When sharing this book, you may want to include that it's gender free as part of the conversation in your classroom, library or home if

- you have a child, family or community member who does not fit into the boy or girl box they were assigned at birth
- you want to expand the boxes to include more ways of being a girl or a boy
- you want to be inclusive of everyone regardless of boxes because everyone belongs

For more resources:

www.reflectionpress.com/our-books/gender-now-activity-books-school-edition

www.welcomingschools.org/pages/resources-on-gender-identity-and-children

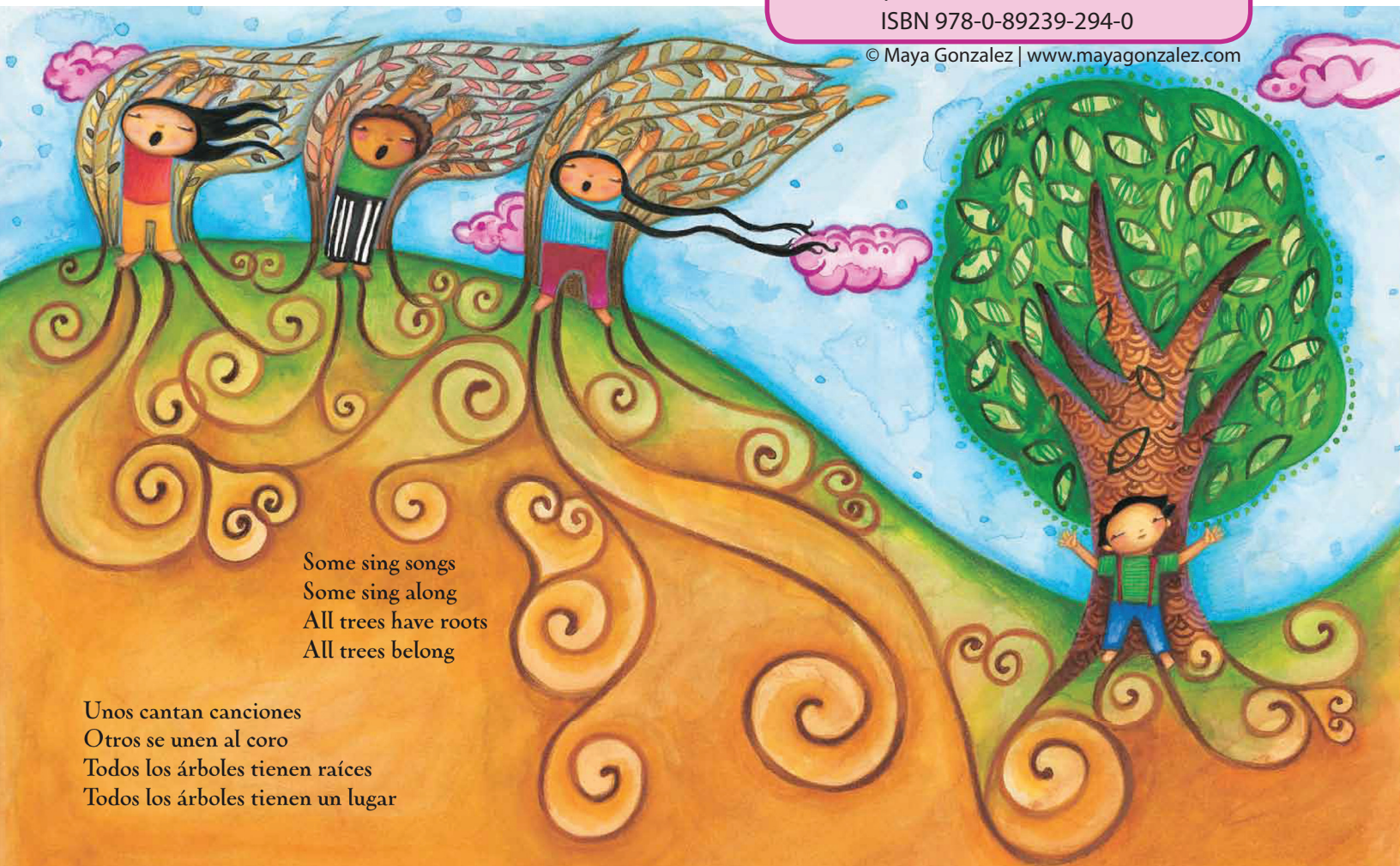
www.tolerance.org/gender-spectrum

www.genderspectrum.org

www.outproudfamilies.com

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Some sing songs
Some sing along
All trees have roots
All trees belong

Unos cantan canciones
Otros se unen al coro
Todos los árboles tienen raíces
Todos los árboles tienen un lugar