

Mother Tree

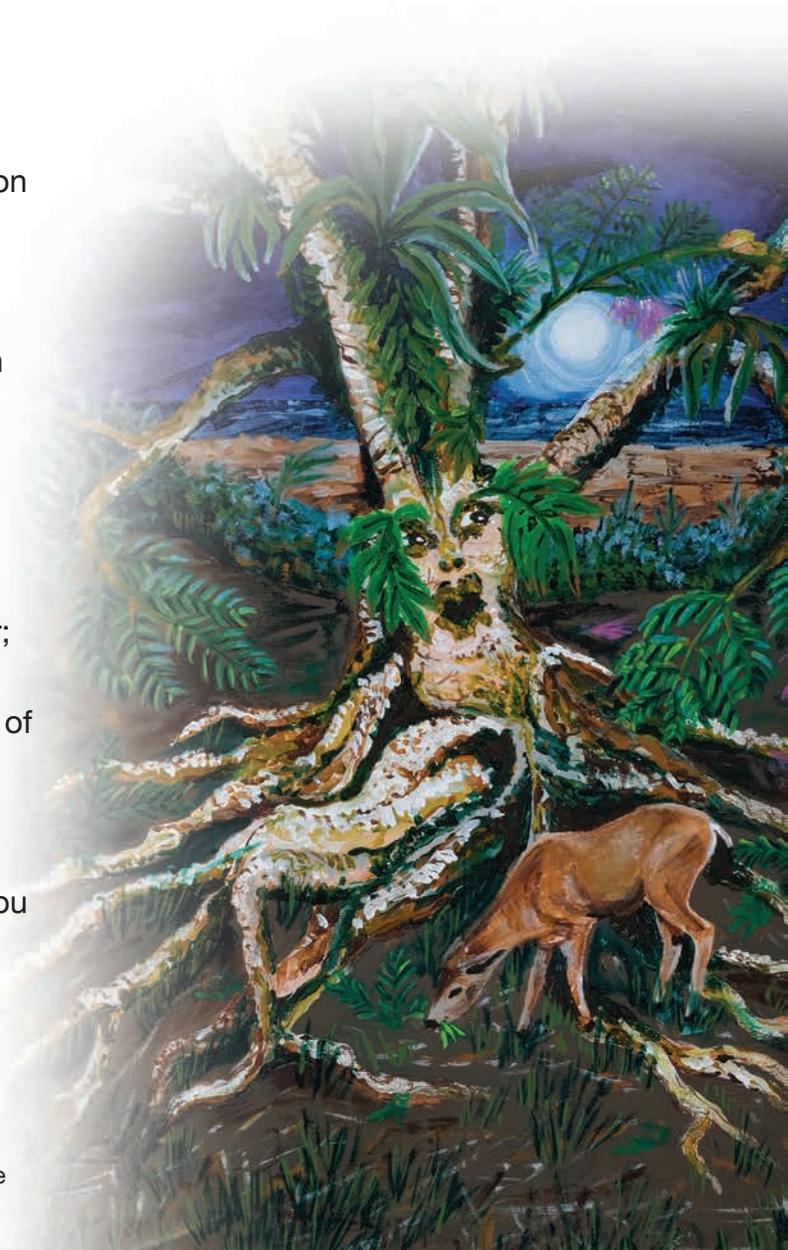
By Olympia Terral
Illustrated by Dawn Lees Reyes

Questions to Consider

1. Inafa'maolek is an important practice in CHamoru culture. It means to be helpful to each other in times of need and to make things better for others. Describe how Atisa and her jungle friends practice inafa'maolek. How do they help each other survive?
2. The deer in the jungle eat Atisa's seedlings before they can grow into trees like her. What other dangers do Atisa and her seedlings face? In what ways can we help protect native species like our island's last h ayon lagu tree?
3. Guinifi goes to sleep feeling safe in Atisa's branches. Who makes you feel loved and safe? How do you make others feel loved and safe?

Creative Prompts

1. Litekyan, a cultural village and habitat for the h ayon lagu tree, is a sacred place. Many of Guam's ancestral latte homes, burial sites, life tools and artifacts from as far back as 3,500 years ago can still be found there. Write about how you envision life was like during the time of Guam's earliest ancestors, when there were hundreds of h ayon lagu trees growing in the jungles of Litekyan.
2. Imagine that you are an endangered species in Guam (i.e. ko'ko' or Guam rail; sihek or kingfisher; haggan or turtle; etc.). Write a story about your experience in your native habitat. What are some of the struggles you face? What are some ways our community can help you thrive?
3. Write a poem about your favorite tree and what you love about it.



Mother Tree can be purchased at all local bookstores and at www.uogpress.com.

Visit UOG Press's Youtube page to hear free readings of featured stories for our worksheets.

