



***wishtree*** by Katherine Applegate

ISBN: 9781250043221 (Hardcover)

Feiwel & Friends, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group, 2017

\*Age Range: 8-12

Grade Range: 4-8 (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

## BOOK SYNOPSIS

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**An oak tree and a crow help their neighbors embrace their differences in this beautiful, nuanced, *New York Times*-bestselling middle-grade novel from Newbery Medalist author Katherine Applegate.**

*Trees can't tell jokes, but they can certainly tell stories. . . .*

Red is an oak tree who is many rings old. Red is the neighborhood "wishtree"—people write their wishes on pieces of cloth and tie them to Red's branches. Along with a crow named Bongo and other animals who seek refuge in Red's hollows, this wishtree watches over the neighborhood.

You might say Red has seen it all.

Until a new family moves in. Not everyone is welcoming, and Red's experience as a wishtree is more important than ever.

Funny, deep, warm, and nuanced, this is Katherine Applegate at her very best—writing from the heart, and from a completely unexpected point of view.

## REVIEWS AND PRAISE

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★ **"The simplicity of Newbery Medalist Applegate's graceful novel contrasts powerfully with the prejudice it confronts. Narration comes from Red, an enormous red oak near an elementary school that also serves as a "wishtree" for the neighborhood—once a year, residents deposit wishes in Red's branches and hollows...It's a distinctive call for kindness, delivered by an unforgettable narrator."** —[Publishers Weekly](#), starred review

★ **"Timely, necessary, and brimming with heart."** —[Booklist](#), starred review

★ **"Newbery Award-winning author Applegate meets high expectations in this tale told by a tree named Red, a red oak who is 'two hundred and sixteen rings old.' ... Another stunning effort from Applegate. This thoughtful read is a top choice for middle graders."** —[School Library Journal](#), starred review

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★ "This swiftly moving yet contemplative read is great for early middle grade, reluctant or tentative readers, or precocious younger students. **A deceptively simple, tender tale in which respect, resilience, and hope triumph.**" —[Kirkus Reviews](#), **starred review**

★ "**Inspires hope for positive change.** Perfect for a powerful classroom read, Wishtree is another winner for Applegate." —*Voices of Youth Advocates*, **starred review**

"This gentle yet powerful book is suitable for all ages...and **its message remains more vital than ever.**"  
—[BookPage](#)

"Applegate introduces another quiet, resilient protagonist who -- like the caged gorilla in *The One and Only Ivan* and the working-class boy in *Crenshaw* -- **speaks movingly to a noisy, fractious world.**" —[The Washington Post](#)

"The story's wit and humor keep it from being heavy-handed, as do vivid portrayals of minor characters, especially Bongo, the sarcastic crow who is Red's best friend. **This is a book made for family sharing and discussion.**"  
—*Raleigh News & Observer*

"**A book to read that sends the right message.**" —*Parents magazine*

"Wishtree is beautiful in every way one can imagine. **Everyone should read this book.**" —*R.J. Palacio*, bestselling author of *Wonder*, *White Bird*, and *Pony*

"**A beautifully written, morally bracing story that will leave its imprint on a reader of any age.**" —[The New York Times Book Review](#)

## AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

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- A *New York Times* bestseller
- ABC E.B. White Read Aloud Award
- Amazon.com Best Books of the Year
- *Booklist* Editors' Choice
- Chicago Public Library Best of the Best
- NPR Best Book of the Year
- *New York Times Book Review* Notable Children's Book of the Year
- *Publishers Weekly* Best Books of the Year
- *Washington Post* Best Books of the Year
- National Public Radio Best Book of 2017
- *Publishers Weekly* Bestseller
- *Washington Post* Best Book of 2017
- Chicago Public Library Best Book of 2017
- *San Francisco Chronicle* 2017 Gift Guide
- *Los Angeles Times* 2017 Gift Guide
- Autumn 2017 Kids' Indie Next List "Top Pick" Title
- Winner, E.B. White Read Aloud Award
- 2018 ALSC/ALA Notable Children's Book

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## MEDIA AND RESOURCES

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- [Discussion Guide](#)
- [Teacher's Guide](#)
- [Wishtree Resources Brochure](#)
- [Storytime with Katherine Applegate](#)
- [Publishers Weekly Author Interview](#)

### **\*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES**

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A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

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