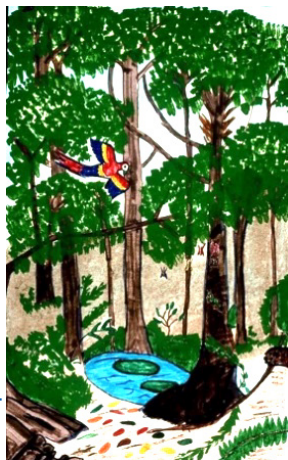


# Trees Communicate

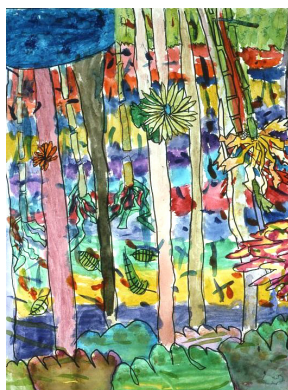
## Explore Environments—Earth



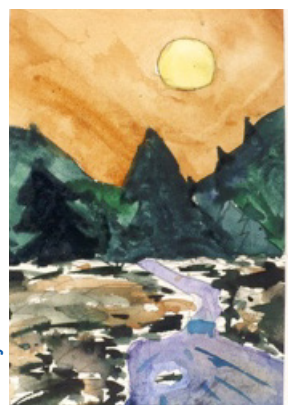
Taylor K.



Christopher T.



Sara S.



Lindsay M.



Natalie M.



**RESPOND** to the research that shows trees communicate with one another through an intricate underground fungal network some refer to as the “wood-wide web.” This is an example of a symbiotic, meaning mutually beneficial, relationship.

Trees can send distress signals about disease, drought, insect attacks, and other threats, and then respond by changing their behavior in subtle ways you may not notice. For instance, trees can send bitter-tasting hormones into their leaves to deter a swarm of insects or group of deer from eating them, then let other trees know to ramp up their defenses as well. Why do you think trees behave in this communal way? What other symbiotic relationships occur in nature?



**CONNECT** how human caregivers behave similarly to mother trees. Scientists refer to the oldest, largest trees in the forest as mother trees. They have the most fungal connections and tend to communicate most with other trees, particularly new saplings in their area. With their deep roots, they can draw up water and share it with their shallow-rooted neighbors through the fungal web. In what ways are mother trees like human community and family leaders?



**CREATE** an image that demonstrates your understanding of how trees communicate and support one another.



**PRESENT** your image and listen while your classmates share theirs. Be inspired by the display of drawings and move your body like a tree. While listening to music that includes or imitates sounds from nature, raise your arms above your head, stretch your legs, and sway like a tree. Use non-verbal communication to send a message to your tree-dancing neighbors.