

## A Note from PJ Library®

The child in this story assumes that it might *not* be very nice to be a tree. A tree is stuck in one place, can't visit friends, might be bored when everyone is sleeping . . . but the tree actually likes all of those “tree-ish” things. The phrase *adam yehidi nivra* (Hebrew for “every person is a unique creation”) reminds us that our differences are just as precious as the things we have in common. The tree in this story also seems to have an innate understanding of *hakarat hatov*, “noticing the good,” an important Jewish value that encourages us to focus on the positive. It's just as helpful for humans as for trees! To learn more, visit [pjlibrary.org/doyoulikebeingatree](http://pjlibrary.org/doyoulikebeingatree).

As much as the tree appreciates its surroundings, it also contributes a great deal to them. Its twisty roots help hold the soil in place (and if you look at the underground picture in this book, you'll see that the soil holds many other things in place, too). Its strong trunk is perfect for a person to rest against and enjoy the view, and it adds to the beauty of the landscape. When the wind whistles through the tree's branches and leaves, it makes a peaceful shushing sound. The tree also provides a home for birds to make their nests and feed their young. The next time you're outside, think about all the ways trees contribute to your life. Judaism has so much gratitude for trees that there's a whole holiday to celebrate them: Tu B'Shevat, also known as the birthday of the trees. You may just want to show your gratitude by planting more of them.

## About PJ Library

The gift of PJ Library is made possible by thousands of generous supporters, your Jewish community, the PJ Library Alliance, and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. PJ Library shares Jewish culture and values through children's books that reflect the diversity of Jewish customs and practice. To learn more about the program and ways to connect to local activities, visit [pjlibrary.org](http://pjlibrary.org).

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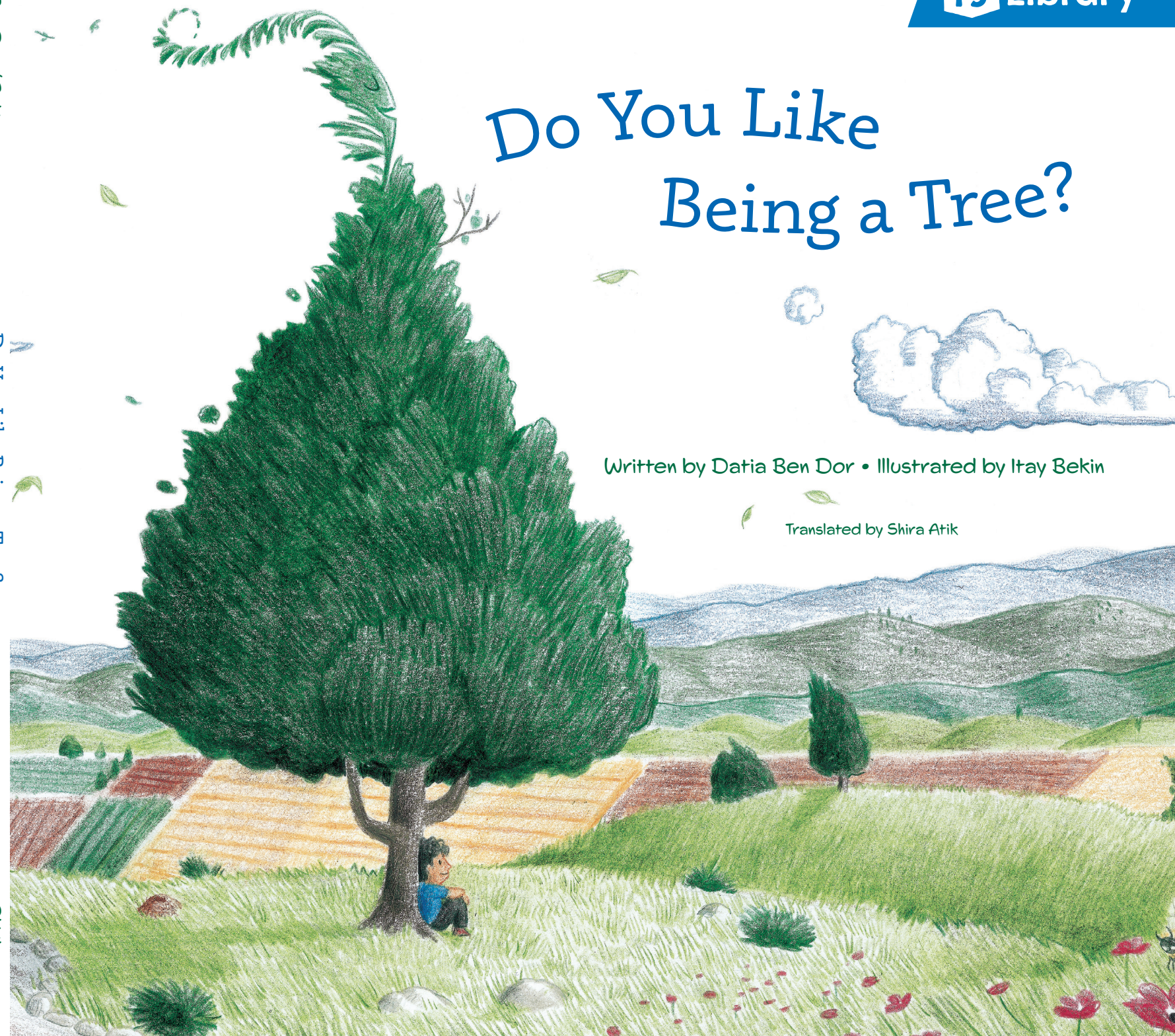
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# Do You Like Being a Tree?

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