

# The Resilient Little Pine

Written & Illustrated by Tanya Blackall









## **The Resilient Little Pine**

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Dedicated to my two sons, Caiden and Liam. May your lives be filled with growth, learning, and the love of the outdoors.





**In a temperate forest down by a creek,  
Grew a pine seedling and his name was Zeke.**

**Zeke the little pine, grew from a seed,  
From a pine cone that seed was freed.  
His cone had dried out under the hot sun,  
His seed escaped to grow and have fun!**





The pine seedling tried with all his might,  
To grow stronger through each day and night.  
His trunk grew straight, and his roots grew wide.  
He swayed in the breeze, gently side to side.

Zeke lapped up the sun through the trees,  
But sometimes that was hard due to their leaves.  
The bigger trees crowded around like an awning,  
And to Zeke, this situation was not very calming!





Summer wound down and the temperature dropped,  
The little pine saplings' growth had now stopped.  
"Oh no!" cried Zeke, afraid for his safety,  
Then his leaves started to quiver like crazy!

**He watched trees change their leaves colour,  
Then those leaves came down in a flutter!**





The poor worried sapling thought he'd be next,  
Being so small, it surely left him perplexed.  
He expressed his concern to his nearby friend,  
But the bright Fireweed had nothing to lend.

When that night, an owl stopped by for a spell,  
Zeke took the chance to come out of his shell.  
He asked the great bird what he knew of fall,  
And the owl simply stated he should grow tall.

"That doesn't help", thought the little pine,  
"I guess I'll ask someone else down the line".





Just as the warm dawn sun was rising,  
A bear ambled close which was surprising.

Beautiful and brown, with fluffy shining fur,  
The bear sniffed around as Zeke asked, "Sir?"  
"May I ask a question?" Zeke said to the bear,  
But the fluffy brown bear only offered a glare.

The bear was not interested in what he had to say,  
He walked off to get a drink at the water way.

This was hard, and Zeke became stressed,  
But a squirrel appeared so he felt blessed.

"Can you help with something you've seen?"  
The squirrel listened and said, "You stay green!"  
In a blaze of relief, "Thank you!" cried Zeke,  
With this information, he was now less bleak.





But the little pine wanted to ask others low,  
When along flew in a shiny, black crow.

As the crow wandered around the forest floor,  
She told Zeke that he might get sore.

"Trees lose their leaves and go dormant in winter,  
There's no sun, and people use you for timber!"

This scared Zeke as he thought, "Why me?"  
"What are people and why can't I just be?"

The crow saw something shiny and flew away,  
Then along came a coyote who seemed okay.

"Mr. Coyote, will my leaves fall like I'm told?"  
"Needles" he corrected, "are kept in the cold!"  
"That's a relief!" thought the little pine,  
By now, it was almost into wintertime.





Zeke was scared as it grew colder each day,  
Then a cougar visited who had a lot to say.  
The long, sleek cat was out on the prowl,  
For refreshing water with a great growl.

He asked Zeke kindly, "How are you today?"  
To which Zeke replied, "I'm cold, but okay."  
"Do not worry, spring will soon be here,  
And all in the forest will give a good cheer!"

**Zeke felt better after talking to the feline,  
At least he didn't have to live in the alpine!**





Time went by and little happened to see,  
Until a deer appeared, healthy as could be.  
Zeke was scared because deer like to nibble,  
Sweet young conifers: They make them dribble!

Zeke plead to the deer "Please leave me alone!"  
The deer thought about it and then went home.

**The little pine was safe, and the air was warmer,  
Finally, spring was showing just around the corner!**





# Glossary

**Conifer** - A tree that produces its' seeds in cones.

**Dormant** - Not currently active but will be again.

**Evergreen** - A tree that remains green all year long even through the winter months.

**Fireweed** - A tall, beautifully flowered plant that is one of the first species to show up in an area after a disaster such as fire.

**Pine** - A coniferous evergreen tree that has long leaves known as needles.

**Sapling** - A young tree with a skinny trunk.

**Seedling** - A young plant raised from a seed.

**Temperate forest** - A mid-latitude forest dominated by distinct seasons with mild temperatures hosting a variety of plant and animal life.

**Timber** - Wood for building that comes from trees.



# About the Author:

Tanya Blackall is a Teacher Candidate student at Thompson Rivers University. Born in Salmon Arm, B.C., Tanya now lives in Kamloops, B.C. with her husband Jason and two sons, Caiden & Liam along with three cats, a chinchilla, & a hamster.



Tanya graduated in 2000 from The University of British Columbia with a Bachelors Degree in Science with a major in Natural Resource Conservation through the faculty of Forestry. As a fourth generation Canadian, she has endeavored to educate not only her family but also those around her about natural resources and the beauty that British Columbia has to offer.



