

Crypt Edventure: Season 1

Parent/Teacher Guide + Go Outside and Notice Page



Focus: Chapter 1 - The Up-Trunk Tree

Big idea: Wonder begins close to home. The impossible tree invites the boy to look harder at nature, and Crypt - the creature in the tree - introduces the responsibility behind what people have put there.

Best fit: Grades 3-6, ages 8-12, homeschool, classroom read-aloud, library program, nature-center lesson, or family discussion.

Quick Use Guide

Before watching or reading

Ask students what they notice in their own yard, schoolyard, or neighborhood. Then ask: "What might be happening there that we usually miss?"

During the chapter

Pause when the tree appears. Ask students why an upside-down tree might matter. Encourage answers about nature, imbalance, surprise, and responsibility.

After the chapter

Use the "I wonder" questions and the Go Outside page. The goal is not one correct answer; the goal is closer noticing and better questions.

Teacher/parent note

Crypt is not the boy. Crypt is the bug-guide in the tree. CRYPT means "CReature You Put There," pointing to human responsibility for environmental neglect.

Learning Goals

- Students recognize that environmental problems can begin in ordinary, familiar places.
- Students practice observation: looking closely, asking why, and noticing details.
- Students connect roots, soil, water, air, and growth as parts of a living system.
- Students consider responsibility without being shamed or overwhelmed.

Discussion Prompts

1. Why might the story begin in a backyard instead of a faraway wilderness?
2. What does the upside-down tree suggest about the condition of nature?
3. Why does the boy need to look more closely before the adventure begins?
4. What do you think Crypt wants people to understand?

Simple Extension Options

Art: Draw your own impossible tree and label what it is trying to teach.

Science: Find one plant outside and sketch the parts you can see: stem/trunk, leaves/needles, soil, roots if visible, and signs of water or light.

Writing: Finish this sentence: "I used to walk past ____, but now I wonder ____."

Go Outside and Notice

A Chapter 1 observation page for curious kids

The boy in Chapter 1 notices something impossible because he is willing to look again. Take 10-15 minutes outside. You do not have to find an upside-down tree. Your job is to notice what is already there.

Step 1 - Choose one small place

Pick one spot: under a tree, beside a fence, near a puddle, by a flower bed, beside a sidewalk crack, or anywhere nature is trying to grow.

My observation spot:

Step 2 - Look closely

■ A plant or leaf	■ Soil, bark, roots, or mulch
■ Water, dew, dampness, or dryness	■ Insects, webs, tracks, holes, or movement
■ Light, shade, wind, sound, or smell	■ Something human-made nearby

Step 3 - Write what you noticed

I noticed:

I also noticed:

Step 4 - Ask like Crypt

I wonder why...

I wonder what would happen if...

I wonder how this place would change if people took better care of it...

Step 5 - Draw your discovery

Draw the small place you observed. Add labels for at least three things you noticed.

Closing Reflection

One thing I used to walk past but now see differently:

Safety reminder: Observe gently. Do not pick unknown plants, disturb nests, touch insects, or wander away from your adult or group.