A watercolor illustration of a large tree on the left with its roots extending across the ground to other smaller trees. The background features a large, soft, pinkish-red circular shape against a yellowish background. The title text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Whose Trees Are These?

Written and Illustrated by
Erna Michalow



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Dedicated to Daniel, Eric and Thomas
who also love trees.





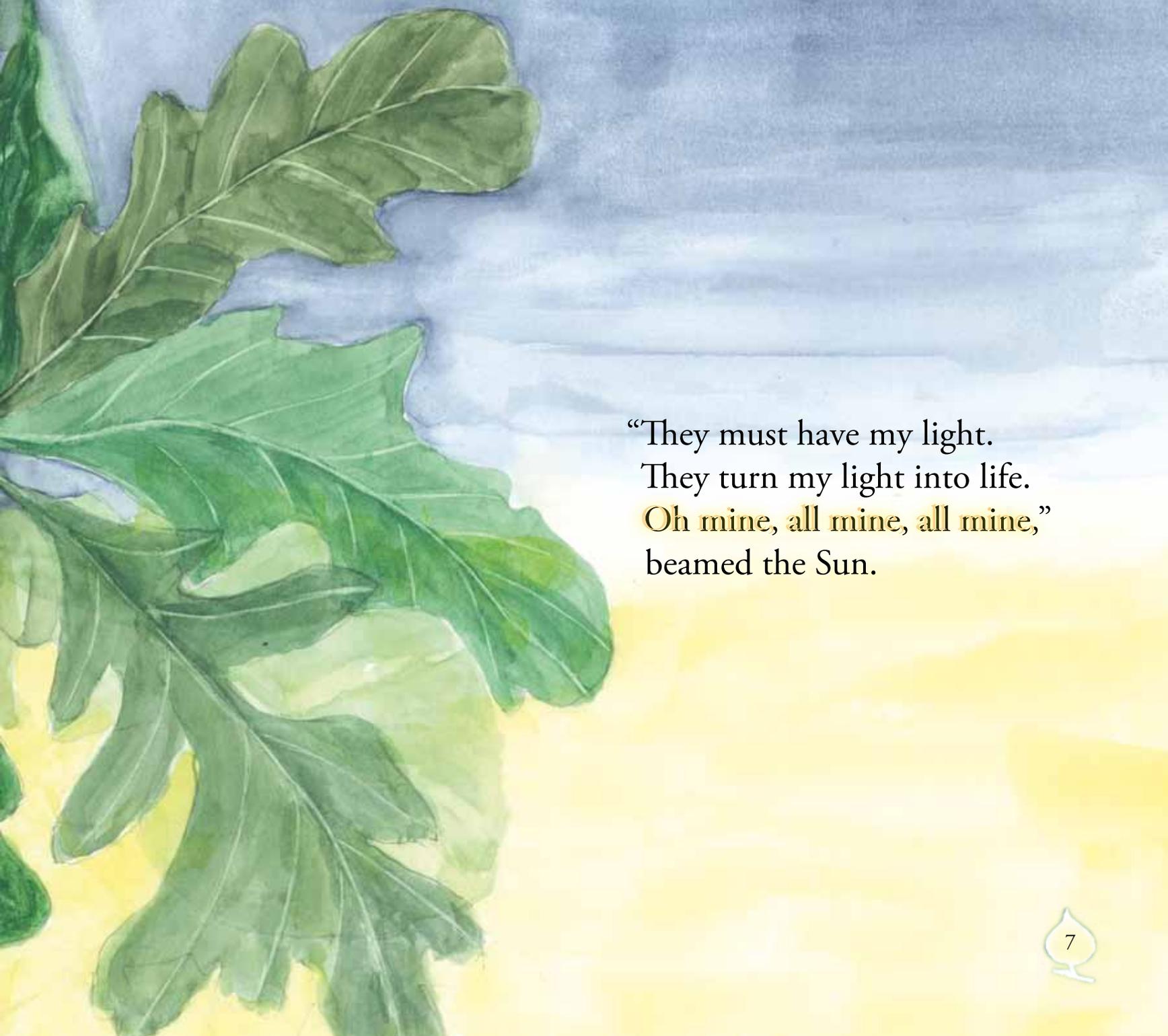
Whose Trees Are These?

“Mine,” said the Sun.

“I am the powerful light
which gives the leaves their colour.

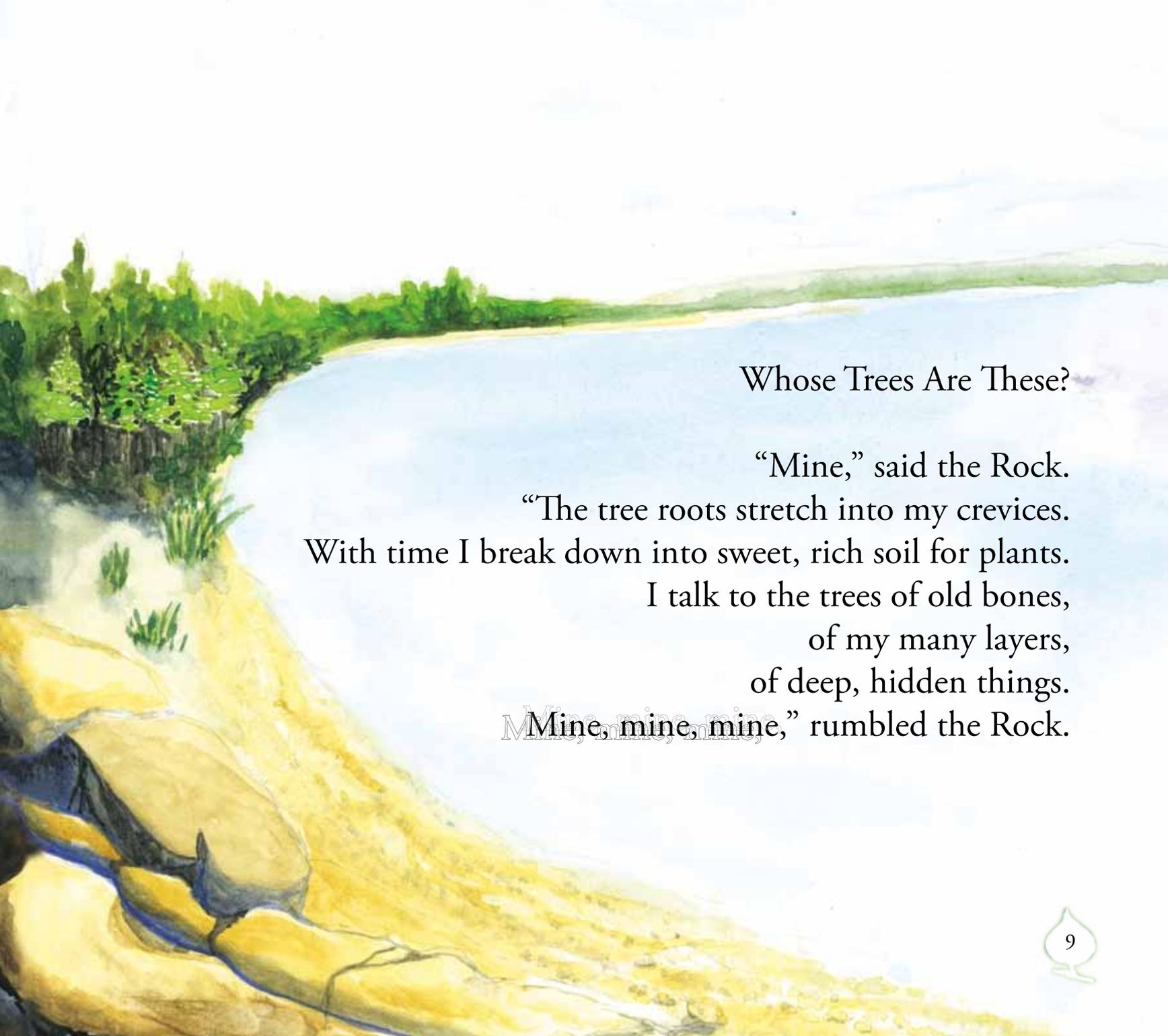
The trees need my heat.





“They must have my light.
They turn my light into life.
Oh mine, all mine, all mine,”
beamed the Sun.





Whose Trees Are These?

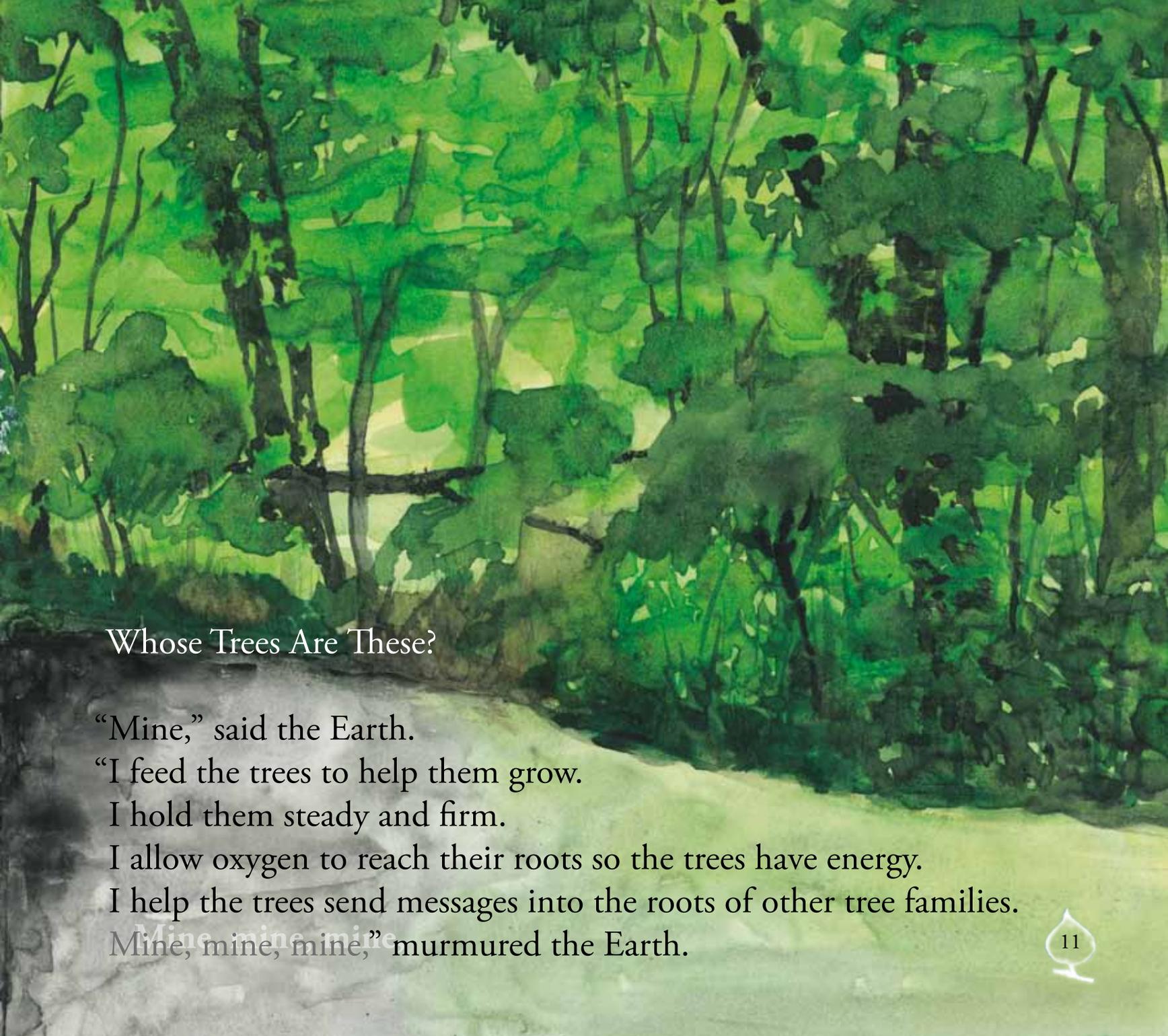
“Mine,” said the Rock.

“The tree roots stretch into my crevices.
With time I break down into sweet, rich soil for plants.

I talk to the trees of old bones,
of my many layers,
of deep, hidden things.

Mine, mine, mine,” rumbled the Rock.





Whose Trees Are These?

“Mine,” said the Earth.

“I feed the trees to help them grow.

I hold them steady and firm.

I allow oxygen to reach their roots so the trees have energy.

I help the trees send messages into the roots of other tree families.

Mine, mine, mine,” murmured the Earth.

Erna Michalow

is a graduate of the University of Manitoba and taught elementary school for many years.

She lives in Winnipeg where she is an active participant in several art clubs. Her inspiration for this book arose from a club challenge requiring members to create their own short book. Erna chose to write a children's story with a focus on nature, using her talents as a landscape artist to engage in a playful partnership with water media and informative text.



Have you ever wondered about the role of trees in nature and their relationship to the rest of the environment?

The author weaves the story's other main characters—the sun, rock, earth, water, air, fire, animals and people—into scenic treed landscapes and brings them all to life through the use of lyrical prose. Each character in turn claims ownership of the trees, but the trees have the final say. Scientific details in both the text and illustrations depict the natural beauty of our world.



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