



What if?

Book 3

Talking with Trees Series

Written by Colleen Doyle Bryant

Illustrated by Manuela Soriani



To my momma, who taught me
to ask "What if?" and helped
me fix it when I didn't.

Copyright © 2014 by Colleen Doyle Bryant. All rights reserved.
This book, or parts thereof, may not be reproduced in any form
without permission in writing from the author, Colleen Doyle Bryant.

Published in USA by LoveWell Press
Illustrations by Manuela Soriani
ISBN-13: 978-1500830441
ISBN-10: 1500830445

More about the Talking with Trees series at **TalkingTreeBooks.com**

Perched high on a swaying branch, in a massive mulberry tree, a boy was just about to jump down when a friendly voice rippled up through the tree's leaves.

"Excuse me. Have you asked yourself, 'What if?'"

"What? Who?" the boy looked around, confused.





“Since you’re standing on my head, I think I should point out that jumping from that height might not be a great idea,” said the tree.

Peering down to the grass below, the boy said, “Now that I think about it, I am pretty high up.”



Hearing the unfamiliar voice, the boy's sister jumped up and looked around, but she saw only her brother. "Who were you talking to?" she asked.

"I think... I was talking to the tree," the boy said.

"Really." The girl asked, with her eyebrows raised high on her forehead. "What'd it say?"

"She said I should ask myself, 'What if?'" he shrugged.

"So it not only talks, the tree is giving you advice?" the girl sassed.



“Oh sure. I’ve given advice to lots of children,”
chuckled the tree.

“Acorn sandwiches!” cried the girl. “She’s really
talking!”

“Oh now, I don’t drop acorns. But I do hand out these
helpful ‘What if’ seeds.

“You see, your brother isn’t the first to notice my
branches are great for climbing. But when those
lovely children leaped without thinking first, broken
arms and twisted ankles spoiled all their fun.

“I felt sick inside watching them hurt themselves. So
now I hand out these special ‘What if’ seeds.

“You just tuck that in your pocket for later,” winked
the tree.

Pages hidden in free preview...

Before you act, ask yourself

What if
I DO this,
what could
happen?

If

You can hurt yourself



You can hurt someone else



You'll make your momma mad



change your action

What would you do?

What would you do? In each of these situations, ask yourself “What if” to see how you can keep having fun, without the trouble.

Your ball rolls into the street. You want to run out and grab it before it rolls down the street.

Your classmate makes a mistake writing on the whiteboard, and you think of something really funny to say about it.

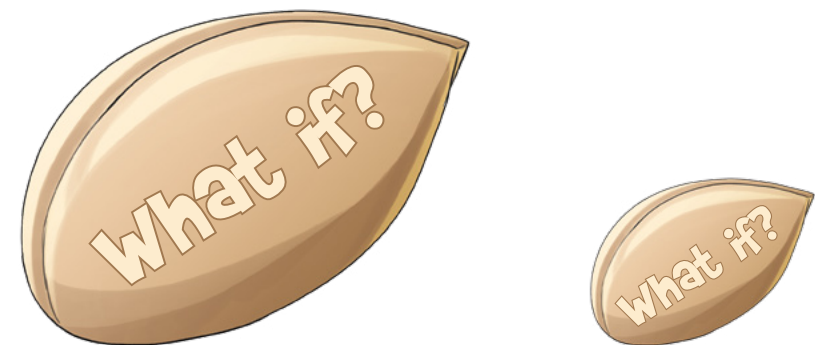
You are supposed to finish your homework before you go out and play. You only have a few math problems left to do, but your friend is ready to play now.

You are waiting in line at the grocery store with your parents and it's so boring. You look at your brother and think it would be fun to poke him in the stomach.

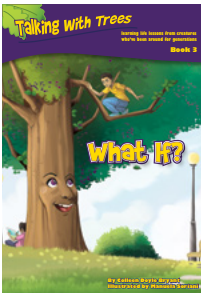
Make your own “What If” Seed

A “What if” Seed can help you remember to think about what could happen if you do or say something. Cut out the seed and place it in your pocket, hang it up, slip it in your backpack... or put it wherever it can help you remember to ask “What if?”.

Ask for permission before cutting this book, or ask to go to TalkingTreeBooks.com for free “What if” seed printables and lots of other great activities.



Want to see what happens next?



Buy the full Book here

Browse our companion worksheets, coloring pages, posters and more at TalkingTreeBooks.com



Explore more Talking with Trees Books

Find stories on honesty, respect, responsibility and more good traits at TalkingTreeBooks.com