

EPISODE 009

Chainsaws, Ethics & Playing God

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Removal day. How arborists decide a tree comes down, and how you carry a decision like that well.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Listen first, then work through these together. There are no answer keys.

- 01 What information would you want before deciding a hundred-year-old tree has to come down?
- 02 Risk assessment weighs what is underneath a tree. How does the presence of people change the math?
- 03 When is removal stewardship, and when is it just convenience? Give an example of each.
- 04 How do people do hard, necessary work without going numb to it?
- 05 Scientists can measure a tree's condition. What tools do we use for deciding whether an action is right?

SHORT READING LIST

The Hidden Life of Trees <i>Peter Wohlleben</i> Accessible entry point on how trees communicate and share resources. Great for junior high readers.	Oaks of California <i>Bruce M. Pavlik and others</i> Field-guide style look at the oak woodlands that define much of the state's landscape.
Fire in California's Ecosystems <i>Edited by van Wagtendonk, Sugihara and others</i> Denser and more technical. Good for high schoolers digging into fire ecology.	The Overstory <i>Richard Powers</i> A novel, not a textbook. Fiction that raises the ethical questions we keep circling back to. Mature themes.

Where arboriculture meets faith, science, and the stewardship of California's living landscapes.