

SEAMUS, THE BRAVE WHITE MULBERRY

BY: AMI SANTOYO AND SABRINA CASAVECHIA

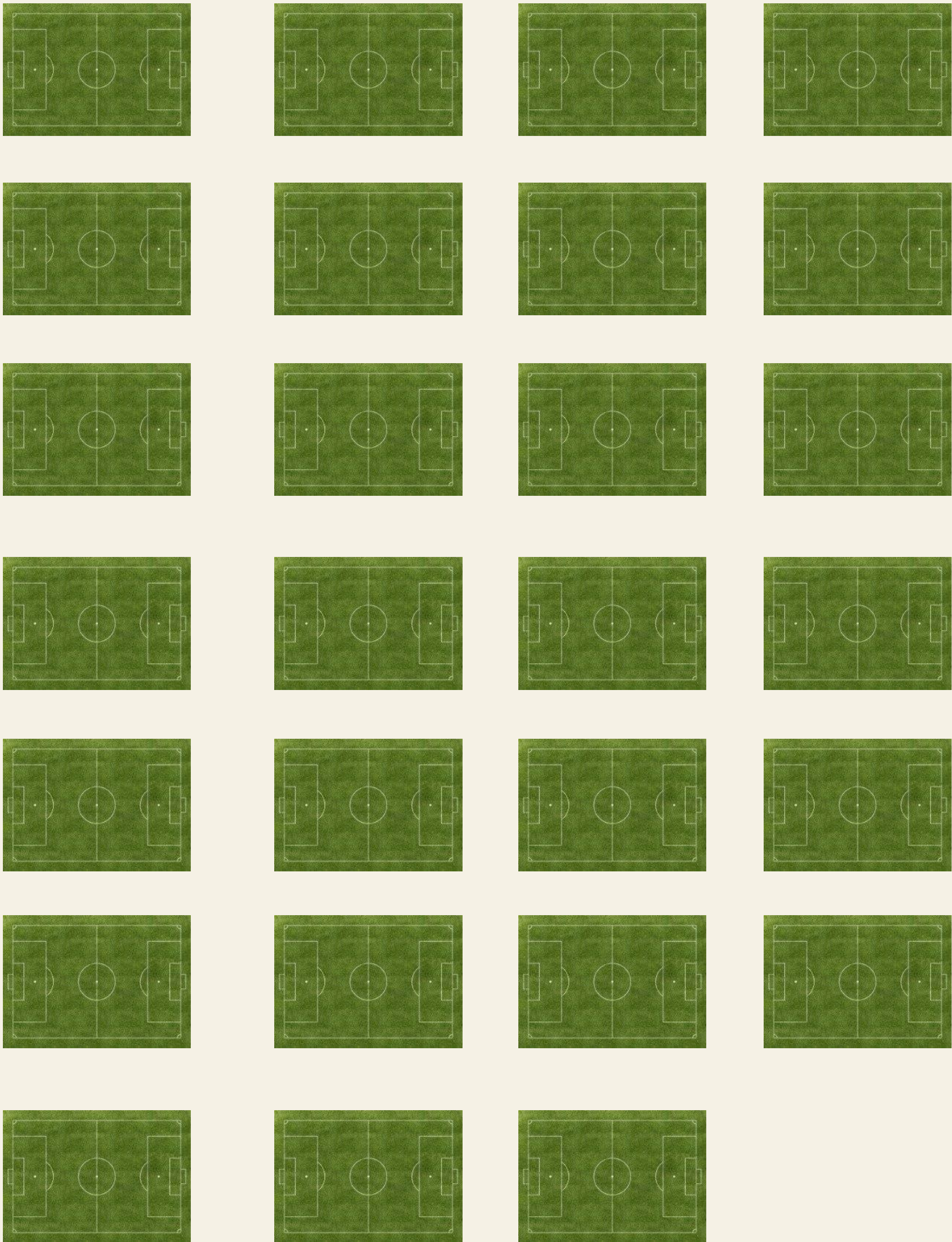
MORE INFO AT
[HTTPS://NATUREWALK.YALE.EDU/TREES/MORACEAE/MORUS-
ALBA/WHITE-MULBERRY-102](https://naturewalk.yale.edu/trees/moraceae/morus-alba/white-mulberry-102)



Deforestation has been a tragic part of American history for centuries. However, the rate of deforestation has increased dramatically over the last 50 years, and shows no signs of stopping.



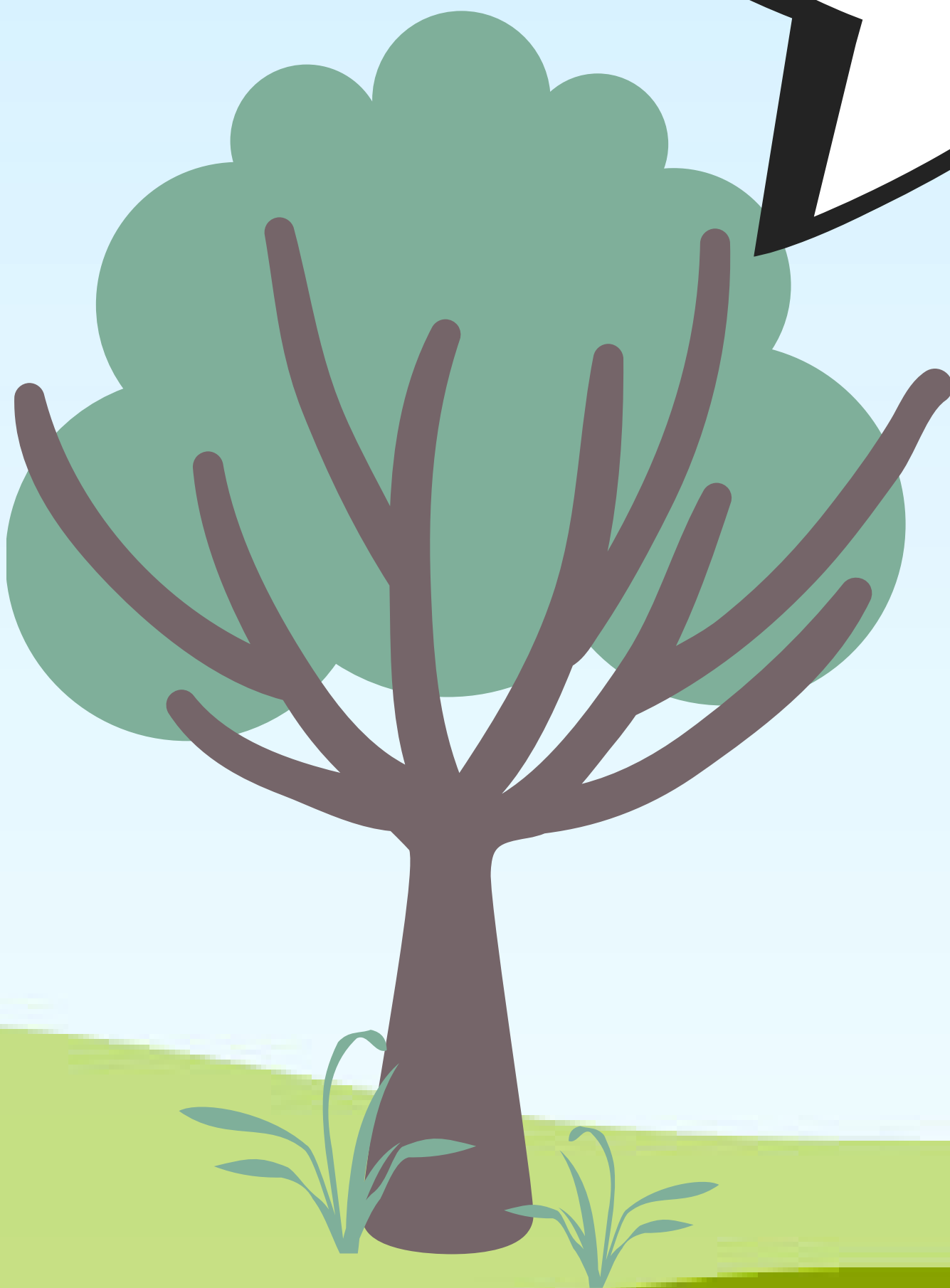
The Earth loses 18.7 million acres of forests per year, which is equal to 27 soccer fields every minute, according to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).



As the deforestation began to hit New Haven, one little tree at the top of the Marsh Botanical Gardens decided to take matters into his own hands...

How can I make people realize all the harm they are doing to the tree community?? They're all so busy looking at their phones; they never notice me.

Maybe I should start a Facebook page about environmental awareness!!! If I had hands and an iPhone, that could totally have saved the day.



Suddenly, he had an idea! "It's perfect!!! All I have to do is buy a stretch of the highway!!! Then, next to the road, I could put a sign, with a QR code.

People driving by will scan it and have all my tree facts. Once they get to know me they'll realize killing trees is wrong!! Now I just need to start a GoFundMe to raise the money."



Just as the brave tree was hatching his plan to stop deforestation, two young Yalies, Ami and Sabrina, were walking through the Botanical Garden.



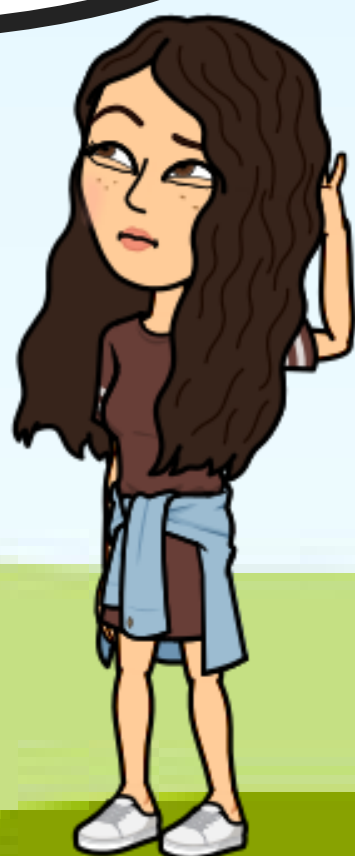
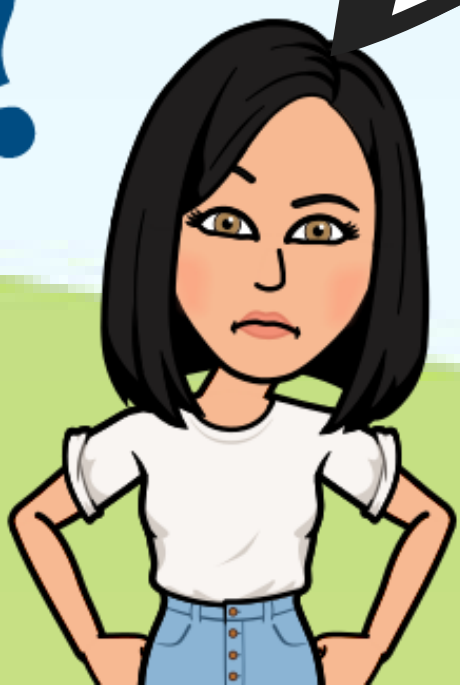
Hi! My name's Seamus. Would you be willing to help me start a GoFundMe page? And maybe even donate? I'm trying to raise awareness about deforestation by buying a stretch of highway and using a QR code.





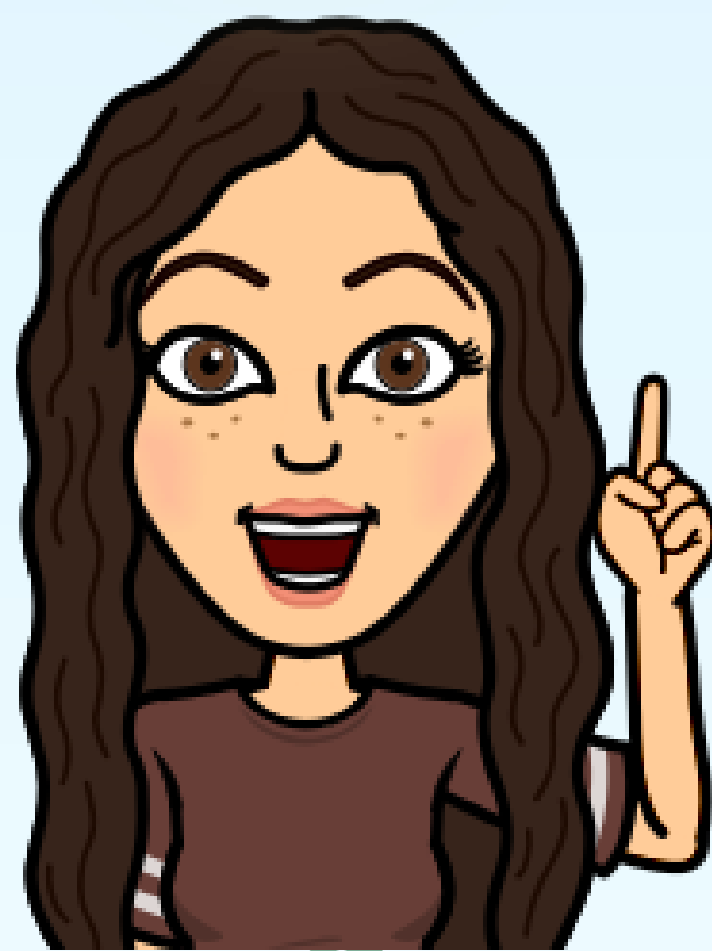
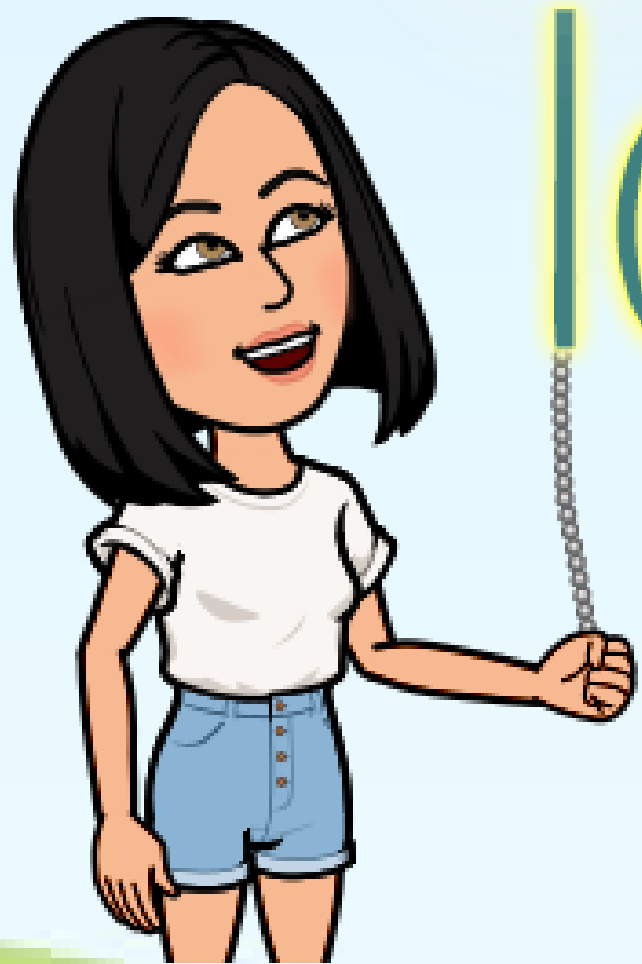
Sure, but uhm, a QR code? How will driver's have time to scan it? Also who just has a QR scanner?

Oh. Good point.



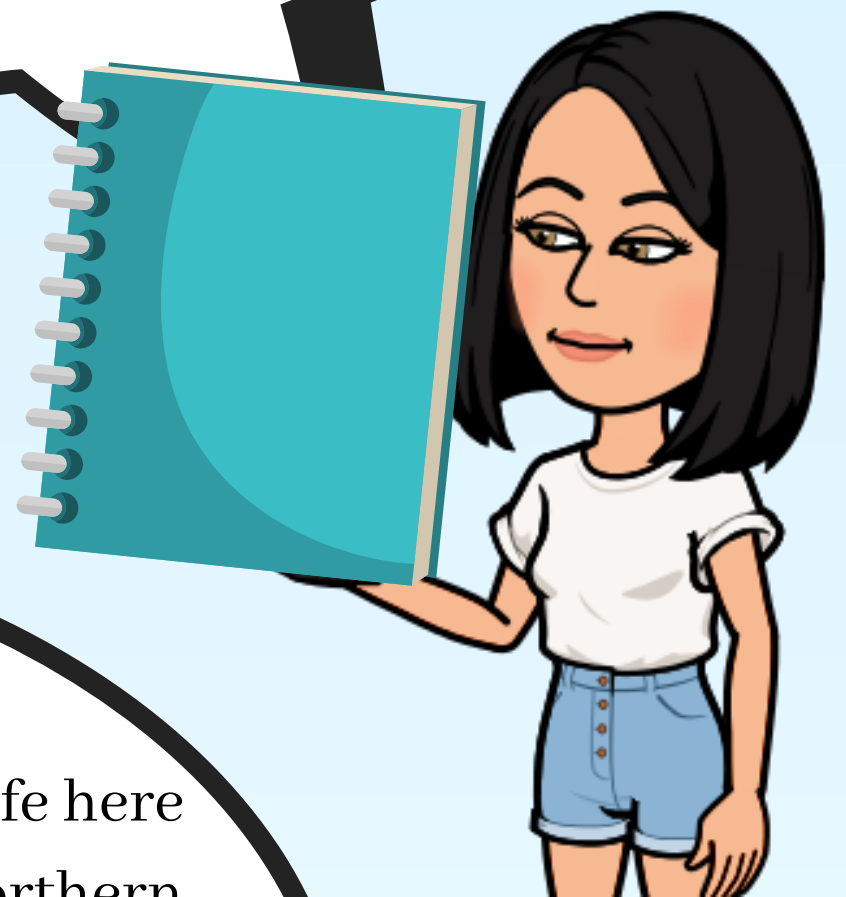
Hey, Ami! I have an idea! What if we ask Seamus if we can interview him for our Tree Project and then we help him share his message about the dangers of deforestation?

Good
Idea



So the girls teamed up with Seamus and began to interview him.

So, tell us about yourself! Your species, where you grew up, any siblings?

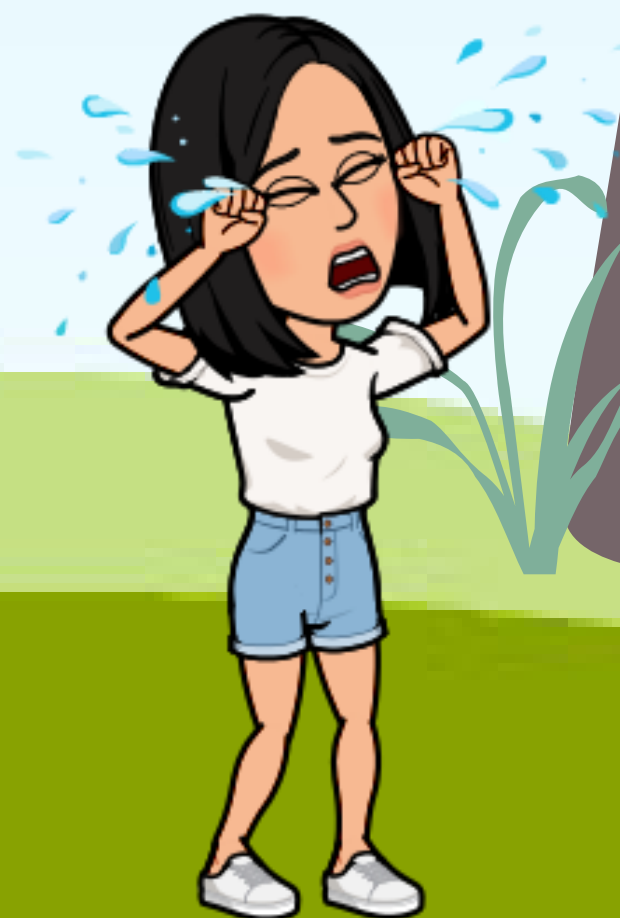


I'm Seamus, a *Morus alba*. I've lived all my life here in New Haven, but my species is native to northern China. I'm a fast growing tree and I hope to grow up to 20m!

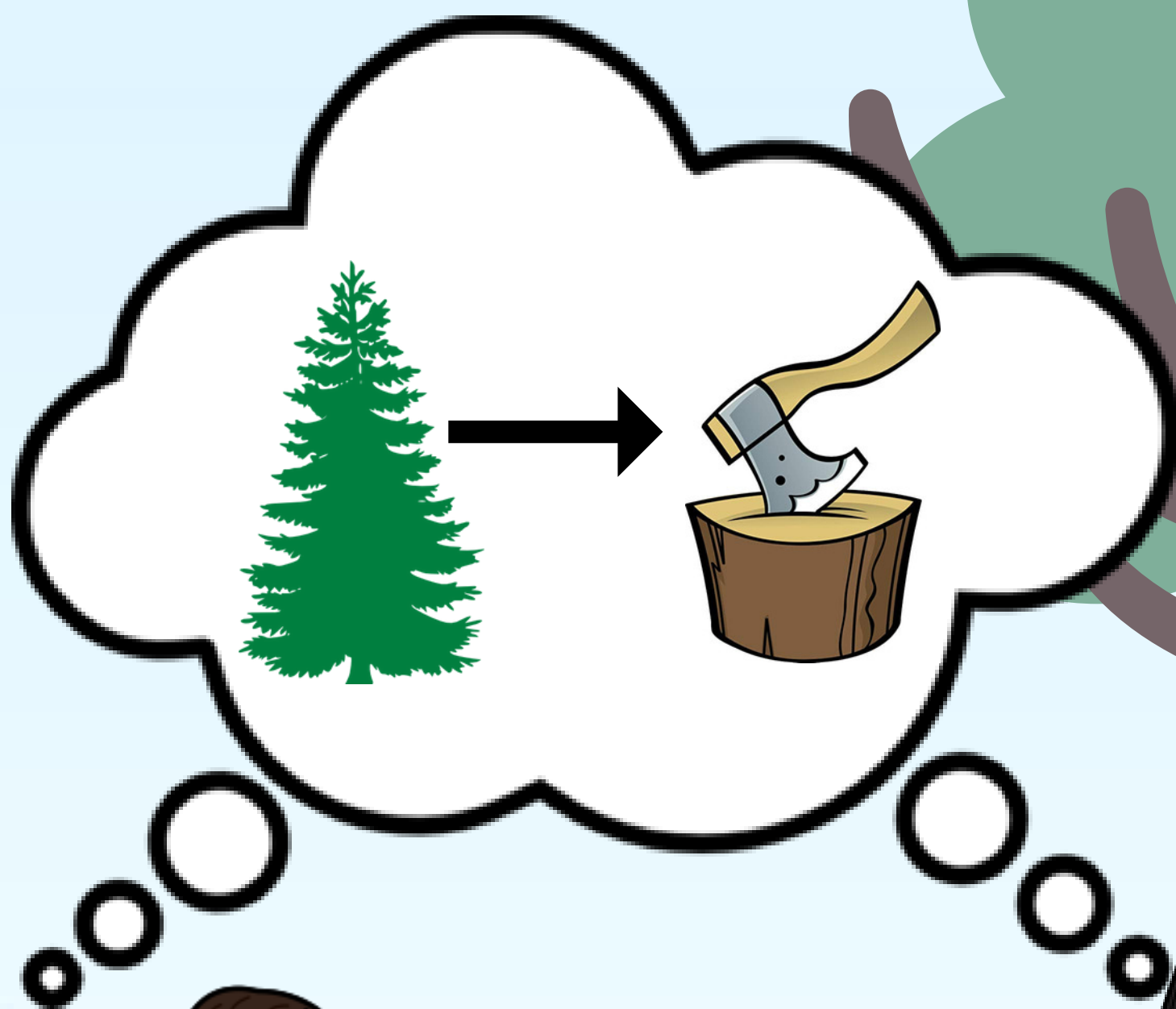
New Haven tap water is my drink of choice. I enjoy sunsets and long conversations with anyone willing to come by and visit.

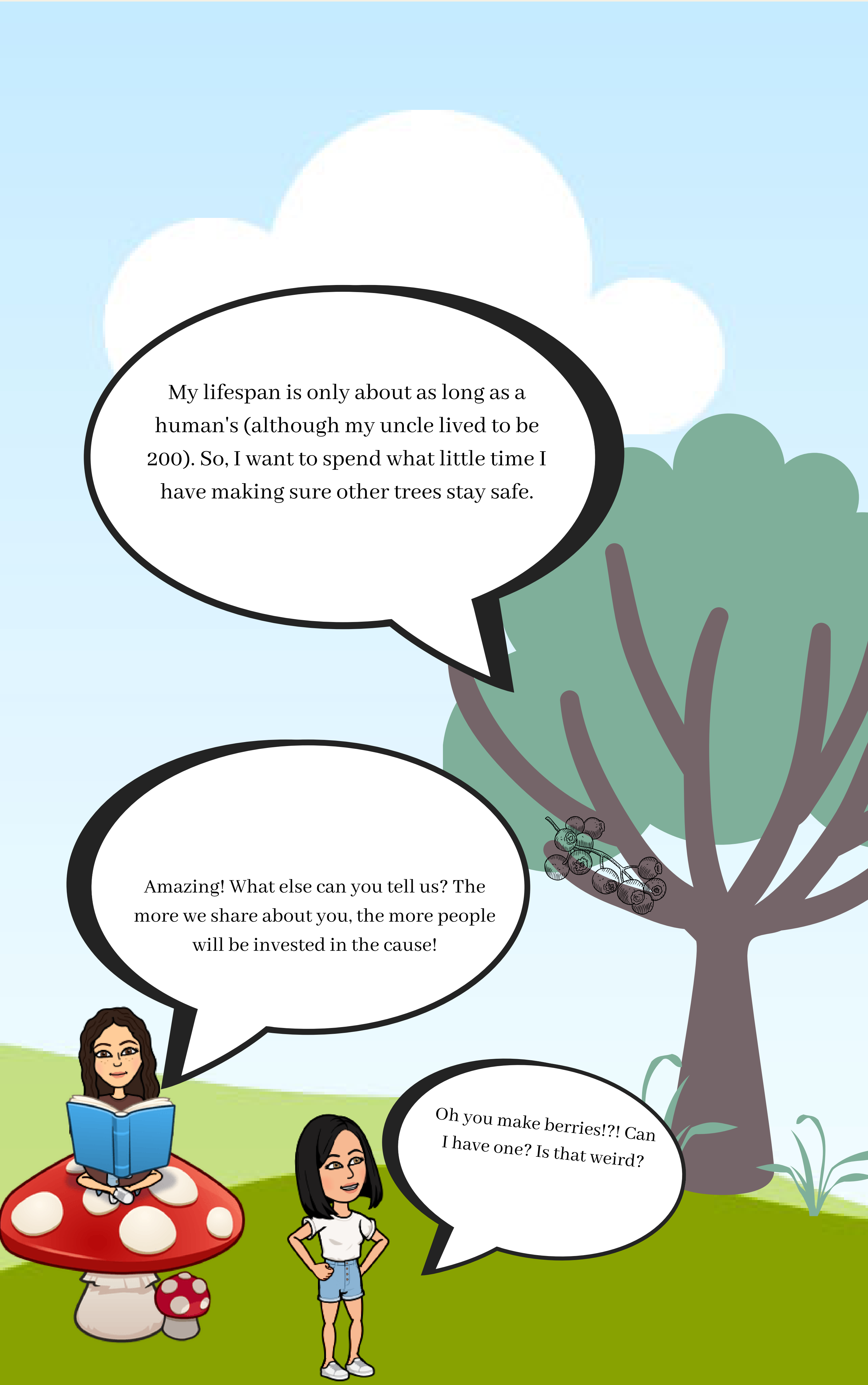


A lot of Yalies used to come visit me, but recently, everyone seems so wrapped up in their electronics. They've all stopped coming to see me.



And then! So many of my friends started disappearing! Larry, a pine down the street, was cut down last week! That's when I knew I had to do something about all this tree cutting!






My lifespan is only about as long as a human's (although my uncle lived to be 200). So, I want to spend what little time I have making sure other trees stay safe.

Amazing! What else can you tell us? The more we share about you, the more people will be invested in the cause!

Oh you make berries!?! Can I have one? Is that weird?

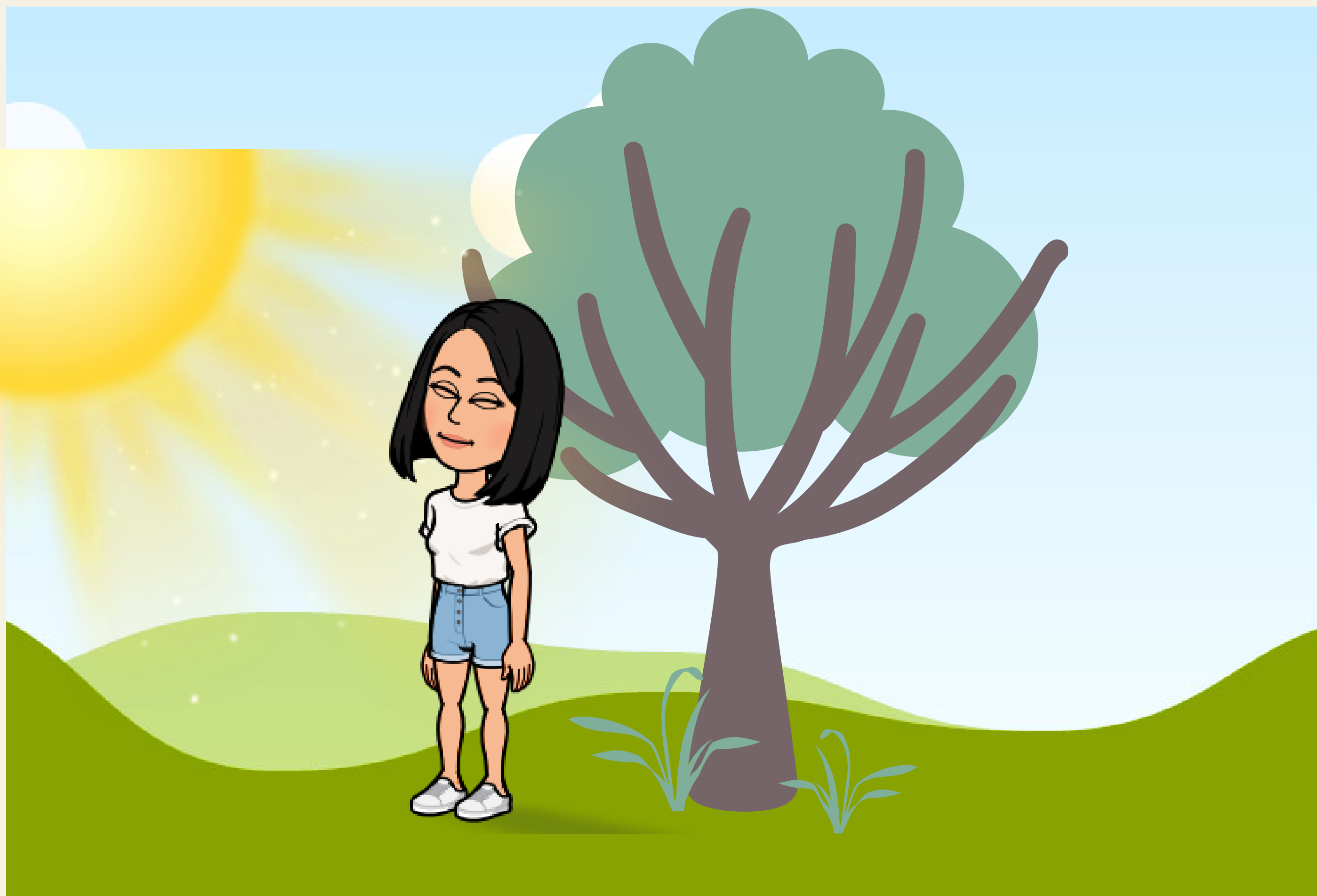


Oh yes! I forgot to mention, my common name is the white mulberry! You can definitely have one now that they're ripe! Before they ripen, the berries are poisonous.

I I should NOT have eaten that berry!!

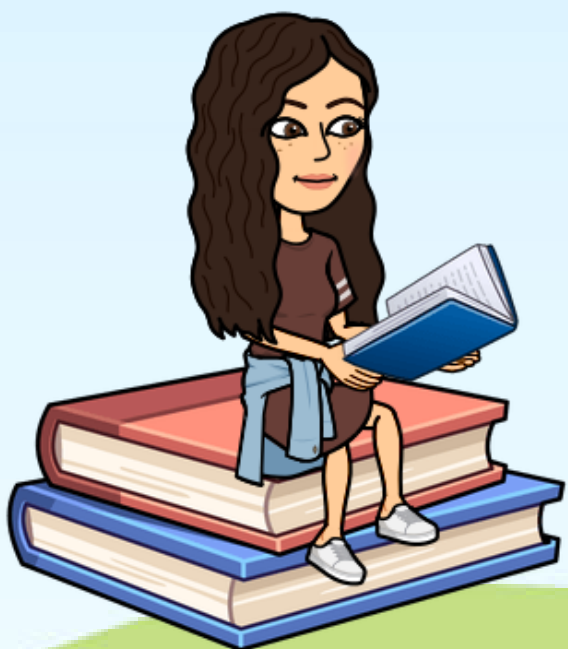
Maybe I'll pass.
But thank you

As the weeks went by, the girls continued to visit and chat with Seamus.



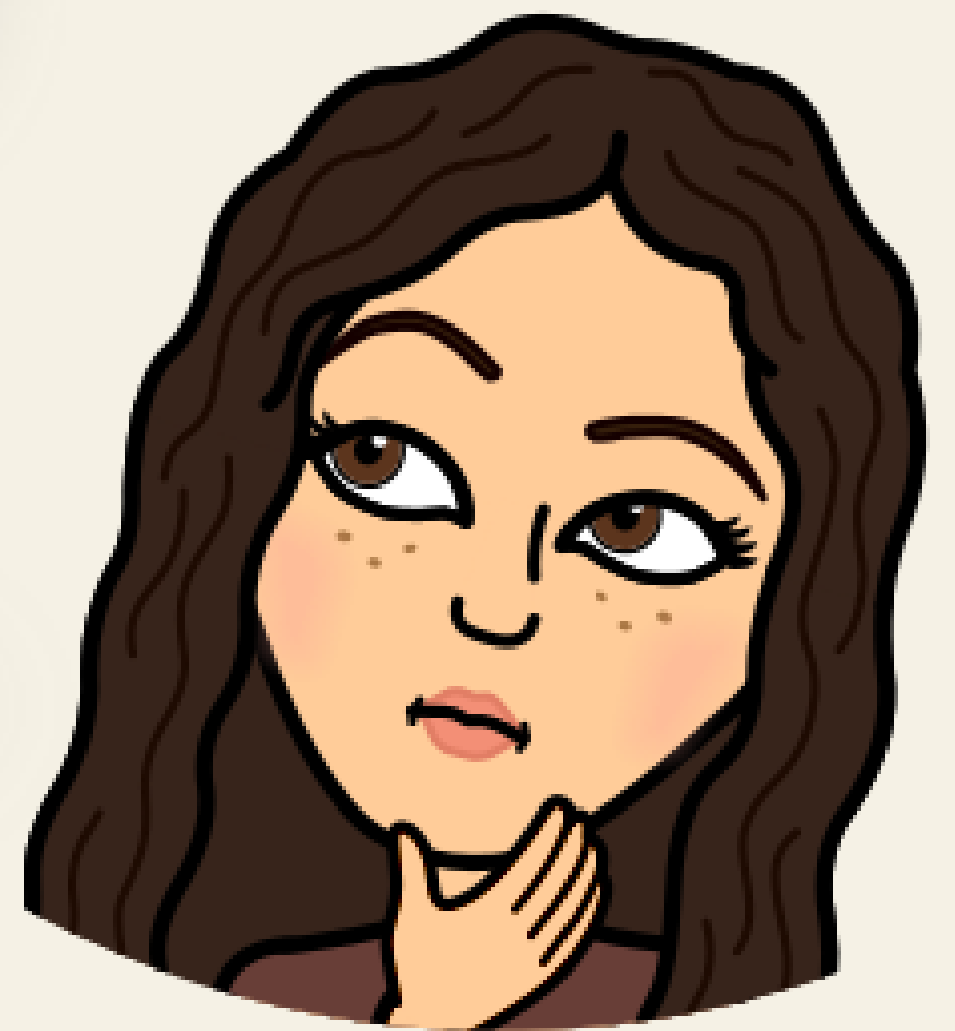
And my great great grandfather fed the silkworms that went on to make robes for the royal family of China.

Wow! What dynasty?
Ming or or Song?

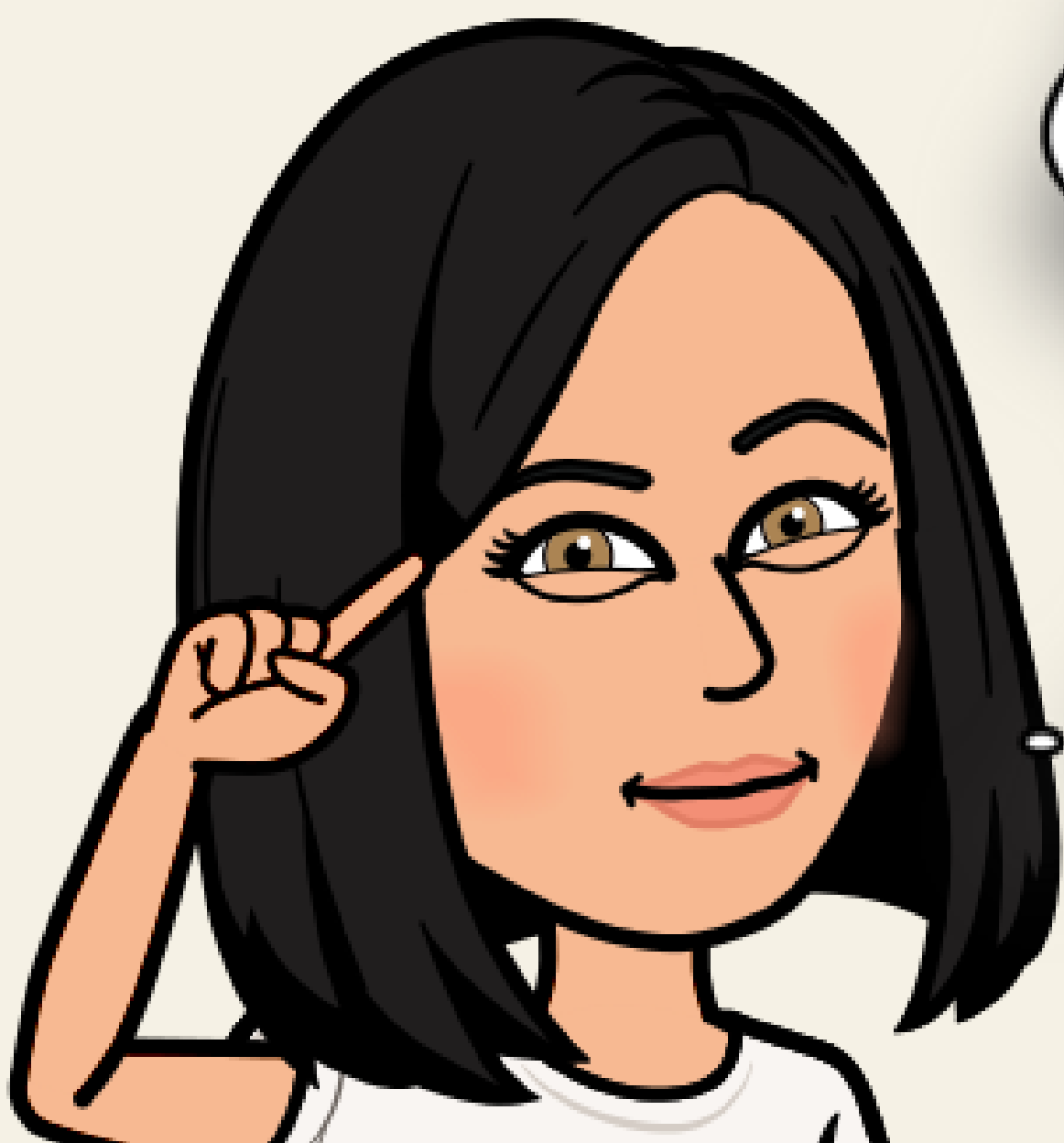


As the semester came to a close, the girls wanted to do something really special for Seamus.

What do we get him? Fertilizer?
Some tap water from SCL? A
Yale T-Shirt?



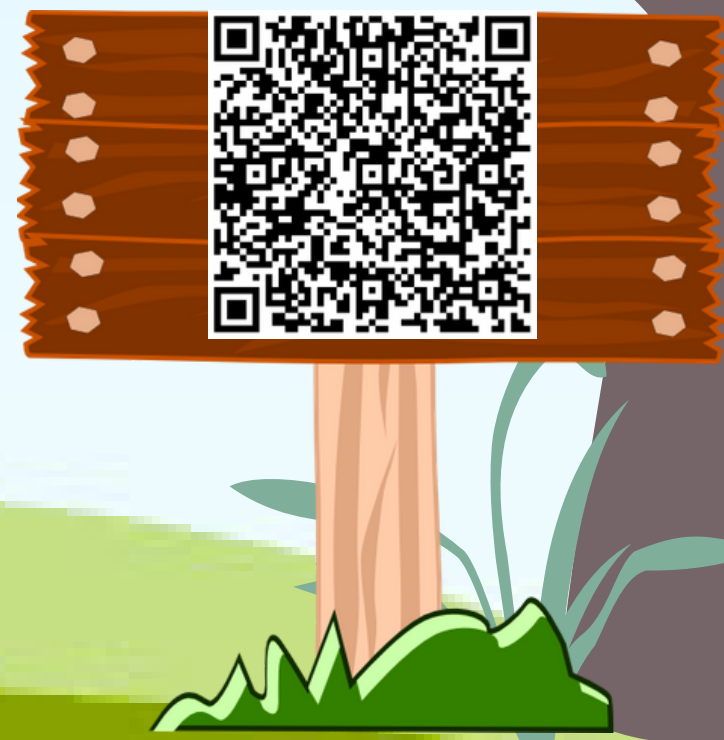
I have an idea!



On the day of the presentation, the girls gave Seamus a special surprise.

My own QR
code!?

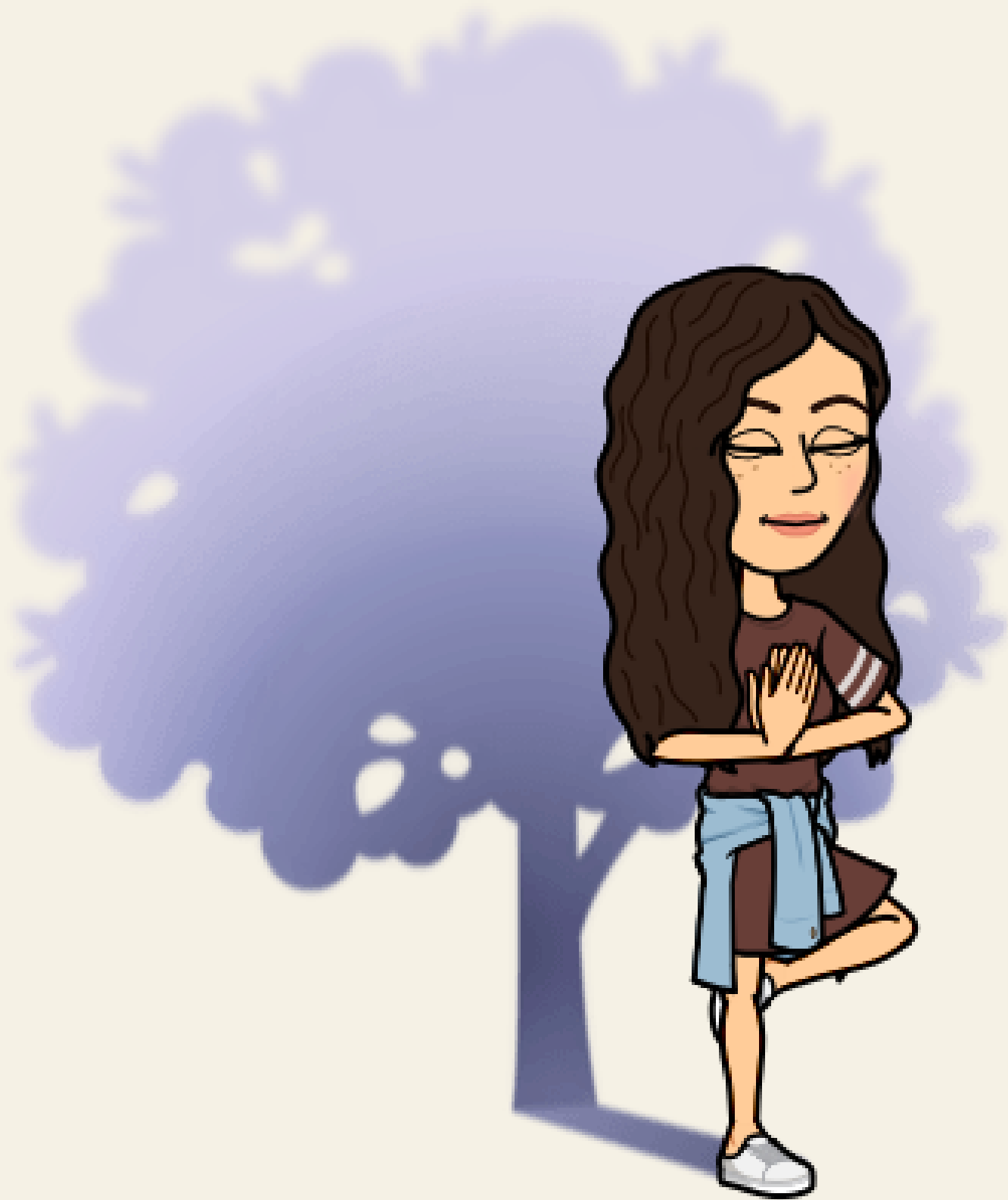
We had a feeling
you'd like it! But
that's not all...





We want to continue to
help you fight back
against deforestation.
One tree at a time.

About the Author



Sabrina Casavechia is a JE senior at Yale. She is a psychology major, and also loves taking art history classes. Sabrina loves reading books, and is grateful that Seamus taught her the environmental value of iBooks. Sabrina is headed to Vanderbilt Law School next fall, but she plans to continue visiting Seamus and helping Seamus save the trees!

About the Author



Ami Santoyo is a current senior in JE majoring in HSHM. From the western suburbs of Chicago, her favorite hobbies include going on walks through the park and listening to music. Her favorite annual plant is corn and her favorite tree will always be the white mulberry.

About the Star:



Seamus is a white mulberry that resides at the Marsh and Farnam Gardens in New Haven, CT. Seamus is 6.70 m tall with aspirations to grow up to 20m. He has multiple trunks and his estimated diameter at breast height is 284 cm. He has a passion for tree rights and has applied for admission at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.