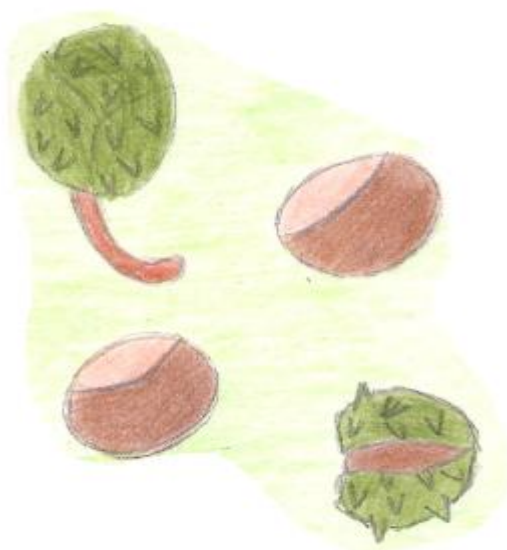


ecological
activity
illustrating story



„ Our Eco Story”
Saving chestnut trees

PG 13 Radom Poland

"The story of the chestnut"

Long, long ago, in the middle of a city park, a small chestnut sapling appeared. The sun heated the little tree, light drizzle watered it, and from a small chestnut sapling a big, shady tree grew up.



It was spring, and the tree was covered with green leaves which resembled the shape of the shamrock.



On the branches, next to the leaves high twigs appeared, covered with white flowers. Often, in the shade of the tree the elderly people would sit down to relax, and some students who said: "Chestnuts, and are waiting for us baccalaureate". The tree was very happy



When the flowers overblew, some green spiky husks appeared. They were similar to little hedgehogs rolled into a ball that couldn't be touched since it could be prickly.

When the autumn came, the husks fell to the ground, burst in half and brown chestnuts leaped out of them.



Then, under the tree, little kids with parents appeared and collected all the chestnuts into the bags. They said that in the kindergarten they would be making some monsters out of them. The tree was then very happy. And so passed year after year until the spring time when small spots appeared on the green leaves. First one, then a few, dozen, up to several hundreds. All the beautiful leaves were covered with stains. The tree was not aware of what was going on.



sad.

It felt worse and worse and it was



Increasingly, the bench became empty. There was no sound of laughing children, talking parents, no more elderly people's stories. By its appearance the tree discouraged everybody who wanted to come and sit under it.

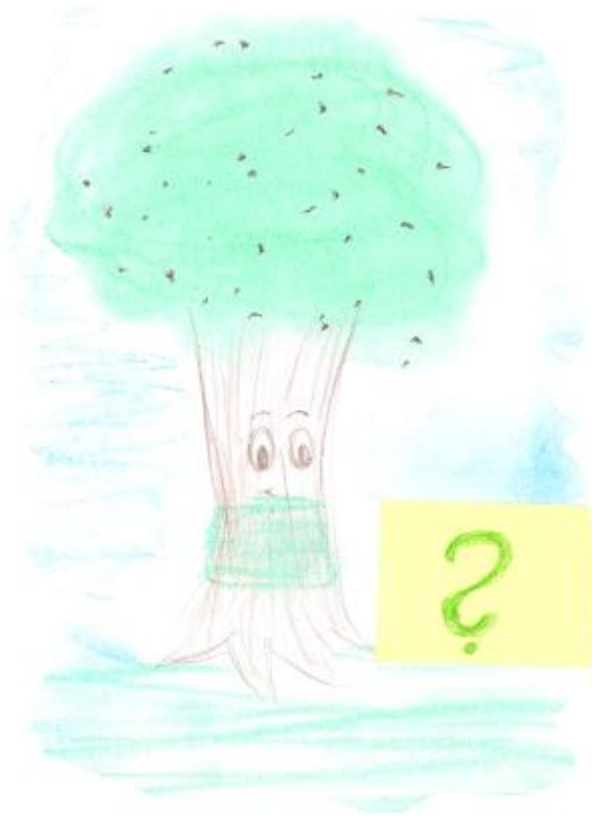


Until one day, when four girls emerged: Mary, Susan, Zosia and Amelka, observing the trunk and leaves. The girls had a long talk and wondered which method of treatment to choose. This was how the tree learned that it was attacked by pestis arboris *Cameraria ohridella*. The tree already knew why it became ill and it felt a relief that people would help it get well.



After a few days, the trunk was wrapped in some foil, on which it was written: "Do not pluck. Treatment of chestnut."

Every day the tree observed the results of the treatment. It kept worrying terribly that it would never come back to health. And so passed day by day.



Daily, the students raked all the droopy leaves. They collected the leaves into large bags, and packed them on a van which took them away for disposal.



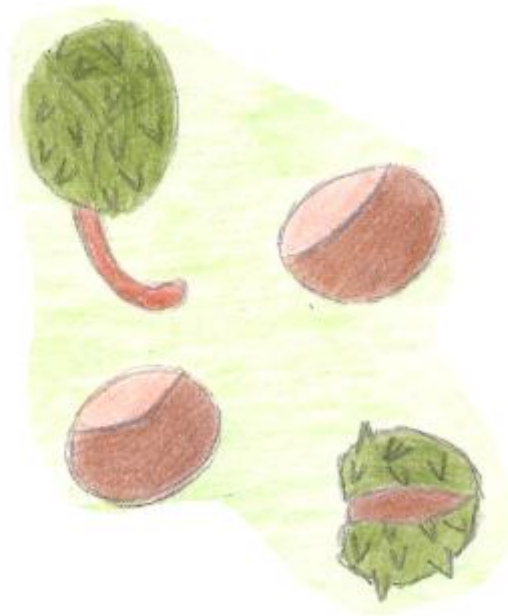


In that way the tree learnt that it could fight *Cameraria ohridella*. It was happy that so many people cared for it. Here came the spring. The rays of the sun woke up the tree. It looked with anxiety at its leaves, worried that it would again see the spots. It couldn't believe! The fight against insects had been completed. The chestnut and the people won. And again on the bench sat young people talking about their exams, the elderly about the grandchildren, and in the autumn little kids started coming back to collect brown chestnuts.



The tree grew healthy, and it was the happiest chestnut in the
park.

Mary - Ib



illustrations -Ib. Mary, Susan, Zosia and Amelka

Ic Marty and Natalka

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