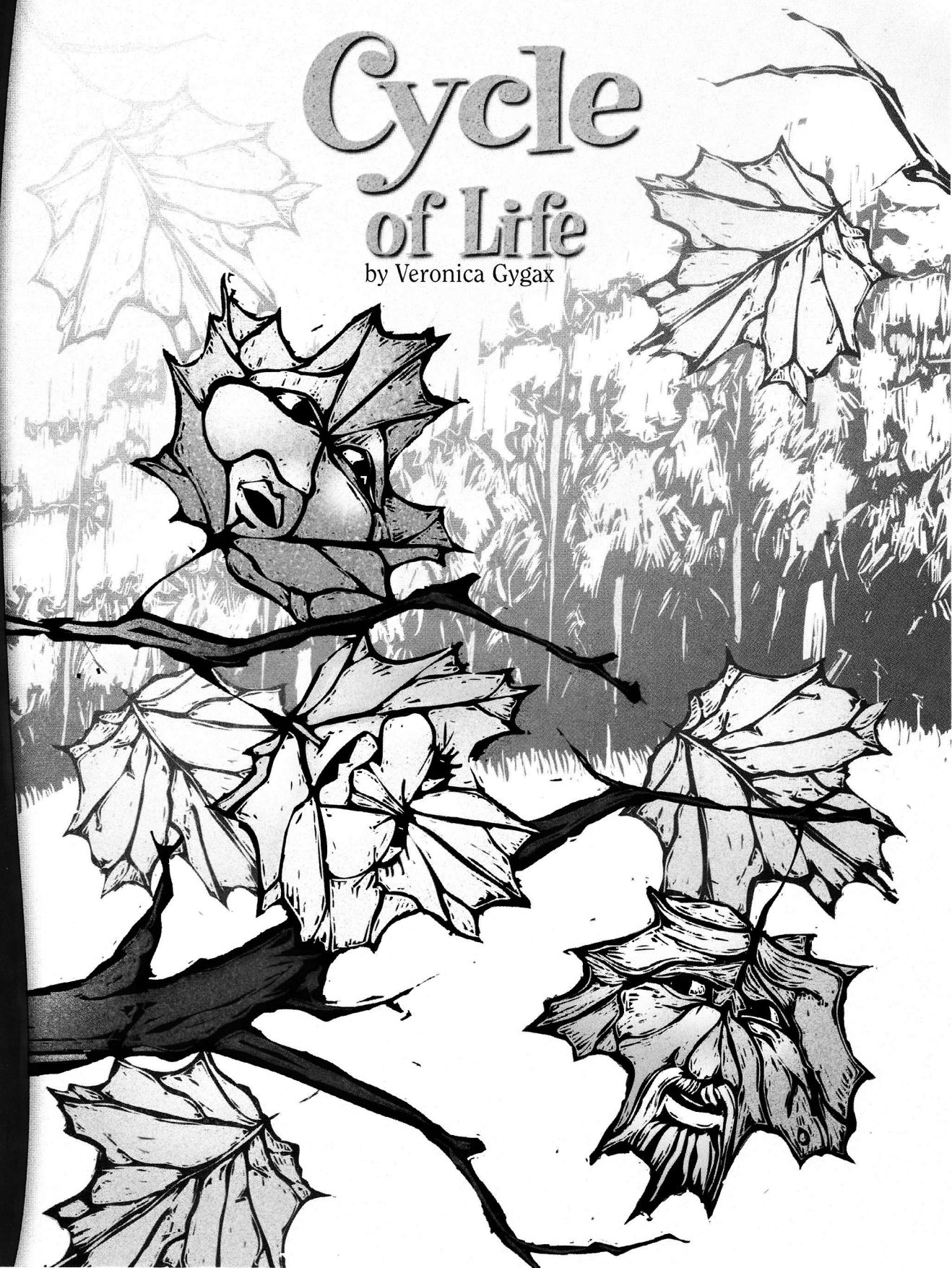


# Cycle of Life

by Veronica Gygax



As the sun rose one chilly September morning, Kip looked at Pat and gasped. "Pat," he said trembling, "you seem to be a little yellow today. And red too."

"What are you talking about, Kip?" Pat asked. "I feel fine."

"Well, yesterday you were your usual lovely green, but now you look different," Kip answered. "We've been neighbors on this maple tree for a long time. I know when something's wrong."

"Hmm," Pat said. "Let's ask Delmar. He's smart, and he's been around longer than we have."

They turned to Delmar, who lived on the next branch. They were shocked to see that he was completely red. When they asked him what was going on, Delmar answered happily. "It's the cycle of life. Each autumn we fall to the ground. Each spring we come back out."

Then Pat and Kip waved good-bye to Delmar as he slowly fluttered to the forest floor.

## COMPREHENSION

**A** Choose the best ending for each sentence. Write *a* or *b*.

- 1 This story is really about
  - a** leaves changing with the seasons.
  - b** Kip and Pat.
- 2 Delmar was red because he was
  - a** a different kind of leaf.
  - b** about to fall from the tree.
- 3 When Pat and Kip didn't know what was happening, they
  - a** asked someone who knew more.
  - b** just forgot about the problem.
- 4 Delmar fell to the ground because
  - a** it was autumn.
  - b** he did not want to change colors.
- 5 Someone who has lived longer
  - a** laughs a lot.
  - b** usually knows more.

## LEARN ABOUT WORDS

**B** A contraction is a short way of writing words. An apostrophe (') shows where letters are left out.

*wasn't* is made from *was not*

Say the contraction for each pair of words. Write the contraction.

- 1 are not
- 2 he is
- 3 what is
- 4 it is
- 5 did not



## LEARN ABOUT WORDS *(continued)*

**C** Read the words you wrote. Which one best fits in each sentence? Write the word.

- 6 We \_\_\_\_\_ see any bugs on the leaves.
- 7 Kip says \_\_\_\_\_ worried about Pat.
- 8 Kip and Pat \_\_\_\_\_ sure what is happening.
- 9 Delmar knows \_\_\_\_\_ happening to Pat.
- 10 Delmar says \_\_\_\_\_ the cycle of life.

## THINK ABOUT IT

**D** Read each set of words. Write the word that comes first in alphabetical order.

- |   |        |         |        |
|---|--------|---------|--------|
| 1 | chilly | cycle   | chop   |
| 2 | fall   | fast    | family |
| 3 | spring | sputter | spill  |
| 4 | wave   | was     | wall   |
| 5 | slowly | slip    | sleep  |