



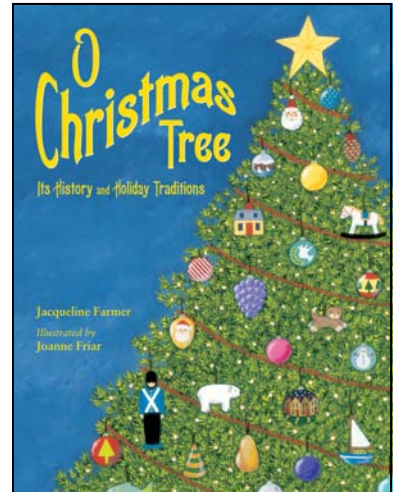
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# O Christmas Tree

## Its History and Holiday Traditions

*Jacqueline Farmer • Illustrated by Joanne Friar*



July 2010

ISBN 978-1-58089-238-4 \$16.95 HC

ISBN 978-1-58089-239-1 \$7.95 PB

ISBN 978-1-60734-235-9 \$6.99 E-book

Ages 5–8 • 8½ x 11 • 32 pages

Full-color illustrations

### **An endearing holiday symbol with ancient roots.**

Even before there was a Christmas, people decorated their homes with evergreens in celebration of the winter solstice. Around 1300 BCE, Egyptians used palm branches to celebrate longer days and the hope of a good crop. In the eighth century the fir tree became a Christian symbol for the Holy Trinity, but it wasn't until the eleventh century that people began to decorate trees in Paradise plays—the story of Adam and Eve. In *O Christmas Tree*, readers learn how evergreens became a common holiday tradition, what kinds of decorations have been used over the years, how many different kinds of trees there are, and more.

But a Christmas tree isn't just a symbol—it's also a science. Readers learn how trees are grown and harvested and the many challenges that a tree farmer faces, from weather and disease to pests that damage entire crops. A tree identification guide is included. There's even a guide for those who love artificial Christmas trees. Anyone want a pink plastic tree?

Joanne Friar's beautiful illustrations, filled with all the colors of the season, are reminiscent of Christmas past, when the simple pleasure of bringing home the tree meant magic and mystery.

*Jacqueline Farmer is the author of several children's books, including Apples and Pumpkins. She lives in Greensboro, North Carolina.*

*Joanne Friar's illustrations have appeared in many magazines and books for children, including The Bald Eagle's View of American History. Joanne lives in Somerset, Massachusetts.*

To receive a review copy or to arrange an interview with Jacqueline or Joanne, please contact Donna Spurlock at (617) 926-0329, ext. 122, or via email at [dspurlock@charlesbridge.com](mailto:dspurlock@charlesbridge.com).