

ASL Paislee and The Talking Tree

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ONSCREEN TEXT: Paislee and the Talking Tree. Written by Bruce Simpson.

Illustrated by Rae Bates.

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Paislee was walking past her neighbour's tree near the sidewalk
when she thought she heard it say, "Hello."

Trees don't talk, thought Paislee. But she stopped, looked up at the
familiar tree and said, "What?!" "Hello," repeated the tree. Paislee
heard that hello as clear as the sky.

"I didn't think trees could talk," said Paislee.

"Yes," said the tree. "We can talk if you listen."

"Do you talk to everyone?" Paislee wanted to know.

"Not everyone listens," said the tree.

"Is there something you want to say to me now that I'm listening?"

asked Paislee.

"Well, I am a little thirsty," replied the tree.

"I could get out the hose. I think it will reach!" said Paislee.

"Oh, that would be kind. Thank you, Paislee."

"YOU KNOW MY NAME?!" cried Paislee.

"I have been listening to your name for years. We are neighbours."

The tree explained.

"I'm going to get you a drink. I'll be right back. Don't move!" said

Paislee.

"You are funny and kind, Paislee! I'm not going anywhere," the tree
laughed.

The hose just made it. Paislee ran to turn it on and wanted to talk
some more. "Did you know me when I was a baby?" she asked.

"Yes," replied the tree, "since before you were born. You were a cute
baby."

"Why didn't you say hello before?" Paislee wanted to know.

"I didn't think you were ready," explained the tree.

"Well, I think it's cool that you can talk. I have a lot more questions

for you, tree. Do you even have a name?"

"You can call me Sugar."

"WHAT?! That's one of my favourite things!" exclaimed Paislee.

"Sugar the talking tree! My dad, my mom, my sisters won't believe it!"

The next day was another hot summer day and Paislee brought the hose. "They didn't believe me," she told Sugar.

"Lots of people don't know about trees, Paislee. They start to listen when they are ready."

"Well, I am ready. Do you need any food, Sugar?"

"I get my food from the soil. But thank you." said Sugar.

"What about hugs? Do you need those?" asked Paislee.

"Yes, Paislee. You thinking about me and caring about me is like a hug, but if you want to really hug me, that would be wonderful."

"I love you, Sugar! Thanks for being special to me. I think I have a lot more trees to meet!" said Paislee as she hugged Sugar.

