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5th grade
Ms. Rief

I would not be sitting in this tree right now if the forest did not affect me. I can look out on the land and see everything surrounding me. The forest is part of my ecosystem.

I depend on the trees as much as a squirrel does for shelter, a beaver for food, or an eagle for its resting pad. I love the forest that surrounds me. It's my home. I live on a farm. My horse pen is made from boards, the old barn I store my tack, hay, and grain in is made of wood. The barn is very strong even though it was built almost 100 years ago. My chickens roost in a wooden coop safe from predators, a wooden picket fence protects my garden, I ride my horse in a wooden railed arena with wood shavings on the ground.

But my favorite place to ride is in the forest, looking up through the treetops at all the beautiful colors, hearing the birds chirping, viewing the turtles sunbathing on a log in the pond. I jump deer seeking shelter in the shade of the forest. I spend a lot of time sitting on the banks of our pond, fishing and enjoying the shade of the giant ponderosa.

From the top of this tree I see a lifestyle that would not be possible without forest products. My lifestyle. One I wouldn't dream of changing.