

# Next Time You See a MAPLE SEED

BY EMILY MORGAN



## A NOTE TO PARENTS AND TEACHERS

**T**he books in this series are intended to be read with a child *after* they have had some experience with the featured objects or phenomena. For example, go outside together on a spring day and look for maple tree samaras (which we commonly call maple seeds). Gather a pile of them and toss them up in the air. As they fall to the ground, watch them spin through the air like tiny helicopters. Look around to see if you can find the tree that made them. Drop one samara at a time and count the seconds it takes to reach the ground. Look closely at a samara and talk about its shape. Feel the delicate, feathery wing. Break open the round end and discuss what you find inside.

Ask your child what they are wondering about the samaras and share what you wonder. Then read this book together and discuss new learnings. You will find that new learnings often lead to new questions. Take time to pause and share these curiosities with each other.

The *Next Time You See* books are not meant to present facts to be memorised. They are written to inspire a sense of wonder about nature and foster a desire to learn more about the natural world. Children are naturally fascinated by twirling maple tree samaras and when they learn about what's inside and why they spin, these whirling springtime regulars become much more remarkable. My wish is that after reading this book, you and your child feel a sense of wonder the next time you see a maple seed.

– Emily Morgan



What we often call maple seeds are really the fruit produced by a maple tree. These winged fruits are known as *samaras*. The actual seed is inside the rounded part of this fruit. Samaras are fascinating fruits because of their unique shape and their ability to fly through the sky like helicopters. Have you ever wondered why they do that?