

# Build a Tree Poem Activity



### At a Glance:

Students will use figurative language and literary devices to create tree poems.

### Materials:

- Colored Pencils, crayons, or markers
- Paper
- Pencil

### Objectives:

- Students will translate observations into words.
- Students will use descriptive words and action verbs.
- Students will write clearly using conventions of language.

### Background:

Nature has been the subject for creative writing for centuries. During this activity, students engage in process-centered writing activities to produce a poem inspired by nature. An outline is provided; however, you may choose to adapt the format as you see fit.

### Suggested Reading:

- *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein
- *Old Elm Speaks* by Kristine O'Connell George

Check your local library's e-book collection for these and other tree books.

### Get Started:

Take a moment to think about life as a tree. Where would you like to live as a tree? How would you make friends? List some of your ideas here:

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### Choose a tree in your yard that you want to focus on. Take time to explore this tree. Answer these questions:

1. What kind of tree is this? Check the leaves and bark to investigate the type of tree you will write about. You can use this website to help you identify your tree: [www.arboday.org/trees/whattree](http://www.arboday.org/trees/whattree)

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2. List two words that describe the tree.

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3. Write an action verb.

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4. List 3 words that describe the place where your tree is living.

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5. Compare your tree to something else.

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6. Create a sentence from your tree's point of view.

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# Build a Tree Poem Activity



**Here is an example poem for inspiration:**

Oak Tree  
Large, mature  
Swaying in the  
Green, grassy, garden.  
My tree is tall like a skyscraper.  
"I love to feel the warm sun  
on my branches," said Oak.

**Use the ideas you brainstormed and the answers to your tree questions to write a paragraph or poem about a tree. Share your writing with a family member.**

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**Reread your paragraph or poem.  
Are there changes that you want to make? Go back and edit.**

Rewrite your finished work on a new piece of paper and include a drawing of the tree.