

The Giving Tree

By: Shel Silverstein
Adapted for Reader's Theater

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Tree
Narrator 2

Boy

Narrator 1
Narrator 3

- N-1 Once there was a tree...and she loved the little boy.
- N-2 And every day the boy would come and he would gather her leaves and make them into crowns and play king of the forest.
- N-3 He would climb up her trunk and swing from her branches and eat apples.
- N-1 And they would play hide-and-go-seek.
- N-2 And when he was tired, he would sleep in her shade.
- N-3 And the boy loved the tree...very much.
- N-1 And the tree was very happy.
- N-2 But time went by.
- N-3 And the boy grew older.
- N-1 And the tree was left all alone.

N-2 Then one day the boy came to the tree and the tree said.

Tree Come, Boy, come and climb up my trunk and swing from my branches and eat apples and play in my shade and be happy.

Boy I am too big to climb and play. I want to buy things and have fun. I want some money. Can you give me some money?

Tree I'm sorry. But I have no money. I only have leaves and apples. Take my apples, Boy, and sell them in the city. Then you will have money and you will be happy.

N-3 And so the boy climbed up the tree and gathered her apples and carried them away.

N-1 And the tree was happy.

N-2 But the boy stayed away for a long time...and the tree was sad.

N-3 And then one day the boy came back and tree shook with joy and she said.

Tree Come, Boy, climb up my trunk and swing from my branches and be happy.

Boy I am too busy to climb trees. I want a house to keep me warm. I want a wife and I want children, and so I need a house. Can you give me a house?

Tree I have no house. The forest is my house, but you can cut off my branches and build a house. Then you will be happy.

N-1 And so the boy cut off her branches and carried them away to build his house.

N-2 And the tree was happy.

N-3 But the boy stayed away for a long time.

N-1 And when he came back, the tree was so happy she could hardly speak.

Tree Come, Boy. (whispered) Come and play.

Boy I am too old and sad to play. I want a boat that will take me far away from here. Can you give me a boat?

Tree Cut down my trunk and make a boat. Then you can sail away and be happy.

N-2 And so the boy cut down her trunk and made a boat and sailed away.

N-3 And the tree was happy...but not really.

N-1 And after a long time the boy came back again.

Tree I am sorry, Boy. But I have nothing left to give you. My apples are gone.

Boy My teeth are too weak for apples.

Tree My branches are all gone. You cannot swing on them-

Boy I am too old to swing on branches.

Tree My trunk is gone, you cannot climb.

Boy I am too tired to climb.

Tree I am sorry. (Sigh) I wish that I could give you something...but I have nothing left. I am just an old stump. I am sorry...

Boy I don't need very much now, just a quiet place to sit and rest. I am very tired.

Tree Well.

N-2 Straightening herself up as much as she could.

Tree Well, an old stump **is** good for sitting and resting. Come, Boy, sit down. Sit down and rest.

N-3 And the boy did.

N-1 And the tree was happy.

All: The End!!!