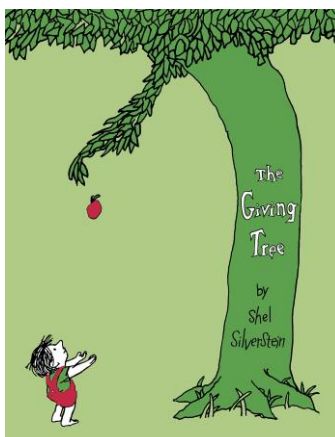


The giving tree



ADVENTURES IN BOOKLAND

GDST



Click [here](#) to access a reading of *The giving tree* by Shel Silverstein.

Book Summary

Once there was a little tree ...and she loved a little boy. Every day the boy would come to the tree to eat her apples, swing from her branches, or slide down her trunk ...and the tree was happy.

But as the boy grew older he began to want more from the tree, and the tree gave and gave and gave. This is a tender story, touched with sadness, aglow with consolation. Shel Silverstein has created a moving parable for readers of all ages that offers an affecting interpretation of the gift of giving and a serene acceptance of another's capacity to love in return.

Discussion Prompts

- Why is the main protagonist called 'Boy'? Why doesn't he have a proper name?
- Why is the tree a 'she' - is that significant?
- Why does the tree keep giving, and why is she happy to do so? Though it does say at one point 'The tree was happy, but not really,' the tree soon reverts to being happy again. Why? Why doesn't the tree protest?
- We might be shocked by the boy/man's behaviour, but do we all treat nature with respect?
- It's a difficult but important question: what do we do that might harm the natural world?
- What could we do to change the way we live in order to change the way the world around us exists?

Putting words into action

- We know that certain things that we do are bad for the environment. For example - single use plastic. But we still use it. Why?
- Is there anything that your school could change to benefit the environment (e.g. not use single-use plastics in the catering facilities)?