

Build a Tree Poem

Suggested Location: Peirce's Park

At a Glance:

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

Grades: 3-5

Materials for Each Student:

- Clipboard
- Paper
- Pencil
- One copy of student page

Goal(s):

Use vocabulary, creative writing, and imagination to create a tree poem.

Objectives:

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

PA Academic Standards:

Types of Writing: 1.4.3.A; 1.4.3.B; 1.5.3.F

National Standards for Writing:

Standard 1: Uses the general skills and strategies of the writing process

Standard 2: Uses the stylistic and rhetorical aspects of writing

Standard 3: Uses grammatical and mechanical conventions in written compositions

Background:

Nature has been the subject or setting for creative writing for centuries. During this activity, students engage in process-centered writing activities to work together or independently 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 Before the Visit to Longwood Gardens:

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



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Suggested location: Peirce's Park

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

Choose a tree in Peirce's Park that you want to get to know better. Take time to explore this tree. Answer the following questions:

1. What is your tree's name? (Hint: trees have labels on the north side of the trunk).
2. List two words that describe what your tree looks like.
3. Write an action verb!
4. Using alliteration, list 3 words that describe the place where your tree is living.
5. Use a simile to compare your tree to something else.
6. Create a sentence from your tree's point of view.



Use the ideas you brainstormed and the answers to your tree questions to write a paragraph or poem about a tree. Share your draft with a friend.

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

Make sure to check your work. Dot the “i” and cross the “t.”

At school, rewrite your poem on nice paper. You may want to include a drawing of the tree.

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.

