The Giving Tree

by Shel Silverstein

1.

Once there ___ a tree... and she _____ a little boy.
And every day the boy would _____ and he would _____ her leaves and make them into crowns and play king of the forest.
He would _____ up her trunk and swing from her branches and eat apples.
And they would _____ hide-and-go-seek.
And when he was tired, he would sleep in her shade.
And the boy loved the tree... very much. And the tree was happy.
But time _____ by. And the boy _____ older.
And the tree was often alone.

2.

Then one day the boy came to the tree and the tree _____, "Come, Boy, come and climb up my trunk and _____ from my branches and eat apples and play in my shade and be happy."
"I am too big ___ _____ and play." said the boy. "I want ___ ____ things and have fun. I want some money. Can you give me some money?"
"I'm sorry. said the tree, but I have no money. I have only leaves and apples.
Take my apples, Boy, and ____ them in the city.
Then you will have money and you will be happy."
And so the boy _____ up the tree and _____ her apples and carried them away.
And the tree was happy.

3.

And after a long time the boy _____ back again. "I am sorry. Boy." said the tree, "But I have nothing left ___ _____ you.. my apples are _____."
"My teeth are too weak for apples," said the boy.
"My branches are gone." said the tree. "You cannot swing on them."
"I an too old ___ _____ on branches." said the boy.
"My trunk is gone," said the tree. "You cannot climb."

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"I am too tired to climb," said the boy.
"I wish that I could give you something... but I have nothing left. I am just an old stump. I am sorry..."
"I don't need very much now," said the boy, "just a quiet place ___ _____ and _____. I am very tired."
"Well," said the tree, straightening herself up as much as she could,
"well, an old stump is good for _____ and resting. come, Boy, sit down. Sit down and rest."
And the boy ____.
And the tree was happy.

- The End -

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