

## 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 am too old \_\_\_\_ on branches." said the boy.  
"My trunk is gone," said the tree. "You cannot climb."

"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 -