

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."

"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 -