


A simple illustration on a light green background. A large tree trunk on the right has a branch extending to the left with a single red apple hanging from it. A small child with dark hair, wearing a red shirt and red overalls, stands on the left, looking up and reaching out with both hands towards the apple. The tree trunk is dark green and has some small plants at its base.

The  
Giving  
Tree

by  
Shel  
Silverstein

A black and white illustration of a large tree with a thick trunk and a small child looking up at a nut falling from a branch. The text "The Giving Tree" is written on the trunk.

The  
Giving  
Tree

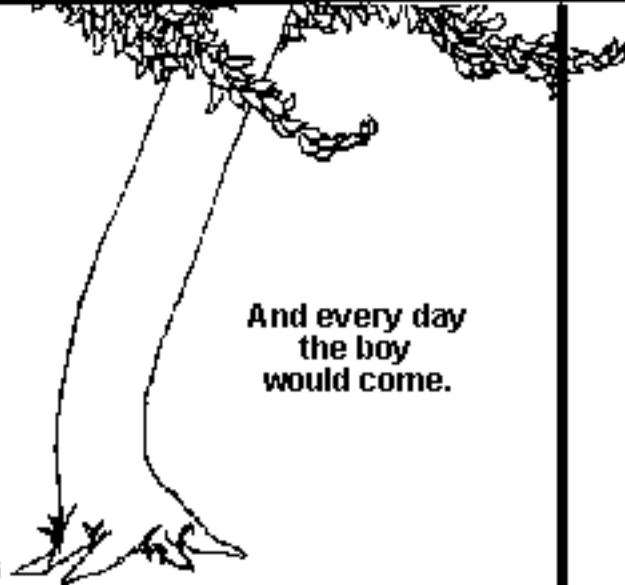




Once there was a tree...



**And  
she loved  
a  
little boy.**

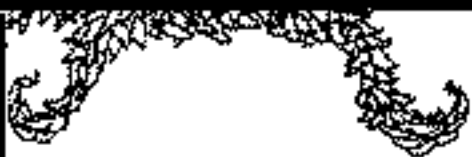
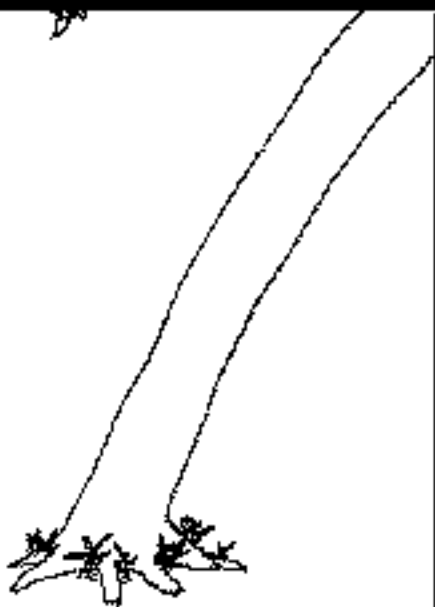


And every day  
the boy  
would come.



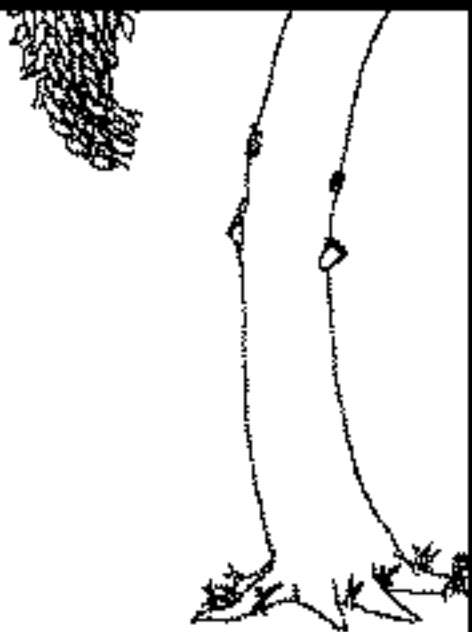


and  
he  
would  
gather  
her  
leaves



**and make them  
into crowns  
and play king of the forest.**





He would climb up her trunk

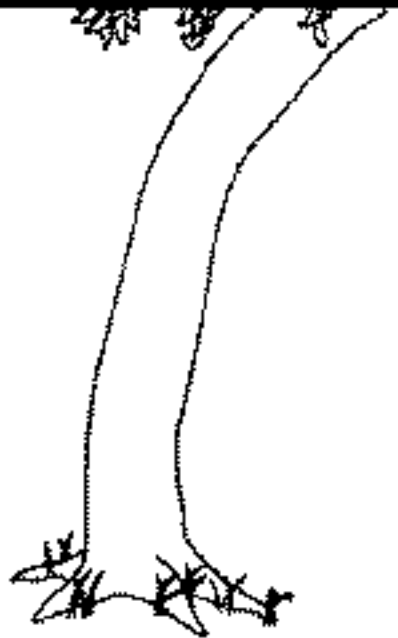






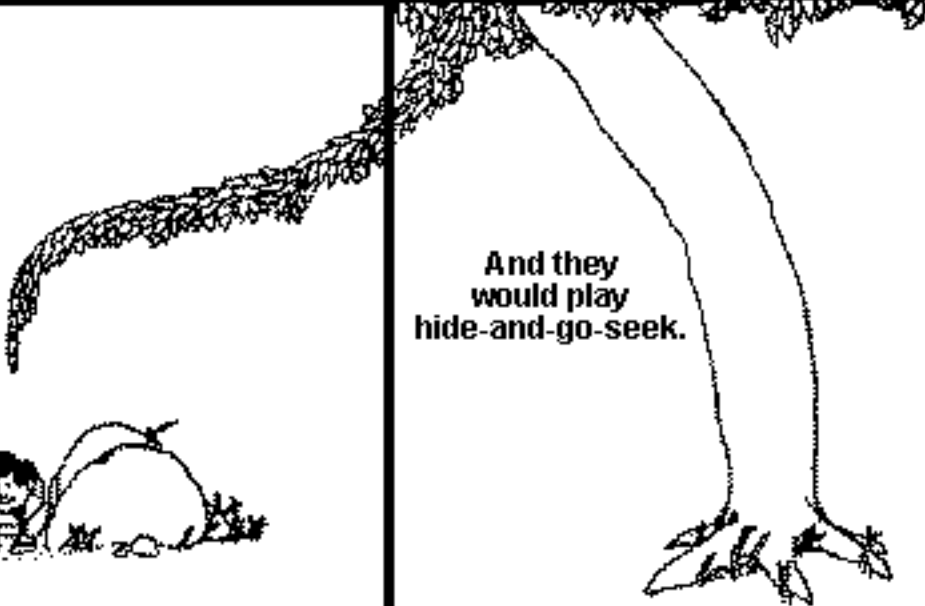
and swing from her branches



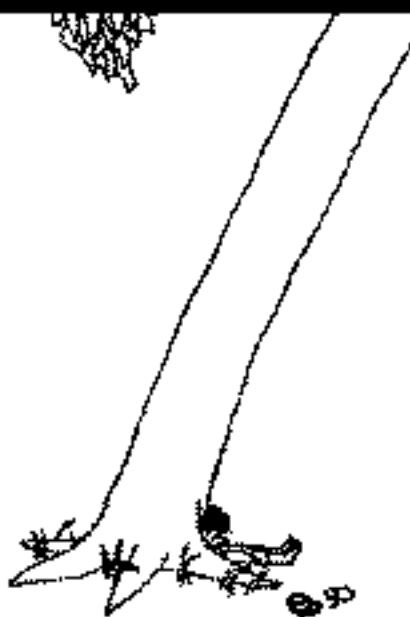


and eat apples.





**And they  
would play  
hide-and-go-seek.**

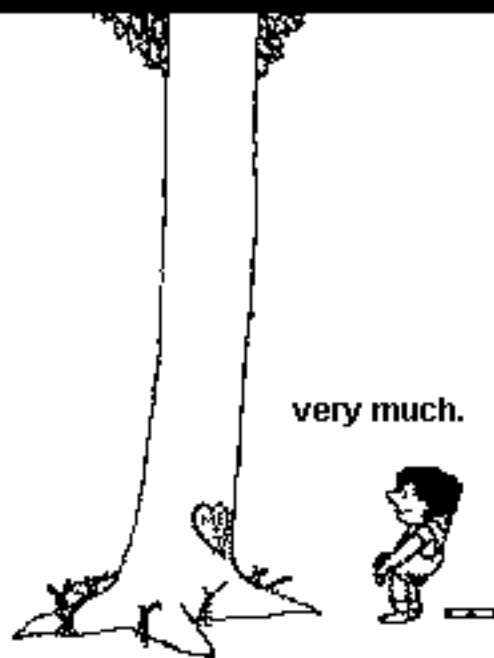


And when  
he was tired,  
he would sleep  
in her shade.





**And the boy loved the tree...**



And the tree was happy.



**But time went by.**



**And the boy grew older.**





**And the tree was often alone.**

Then one day the boy came to the tree and the tree said, "Come, Boy, come and climb up my trunk and swing from my branches and eat apples and play in my shade and be happy."

"I am too big to climb and play," said the boy.

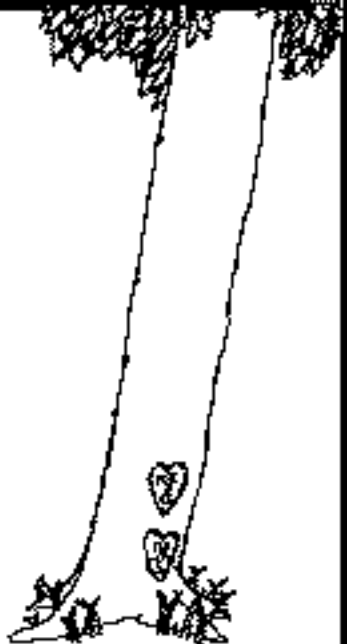
"I want to buy things and have fun. I want some money.

Can you give me some money?"

"I'm sorry," said the tree,  
"but I have no money.

I have only leaves and apples.

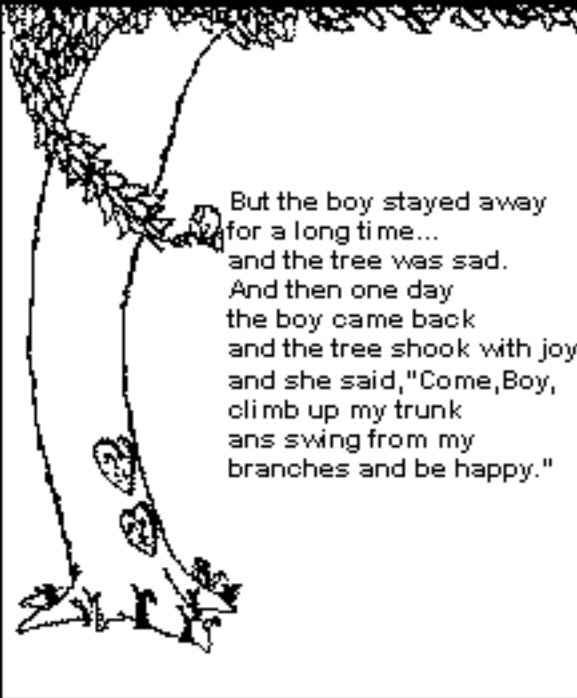
Take my apples, Boy, and sell them in the city. Then you will have money and you will be happy."





**And so the boy climbed up the  
tree and gathered  
her apples  
and carried them away.**

**And the tree was happy.**



But the boy stayed away for a long time... and the tree was sad. And then one day the boy came back and the tree shook with joy and she said, "Come, Boy, climb up my trunk and swing from my branches and be happy."

"I am too busy to climb tree," said the boy.

"I want a house to keep me warm," he said.

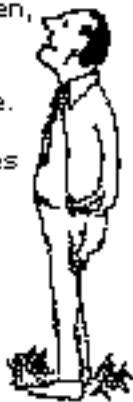
"I want a wife and I want children, and so I need a house.


Can you give me a house?"

"I have no house," said the tree.

"The forest is my house, but you may cut off my branches and build a house.

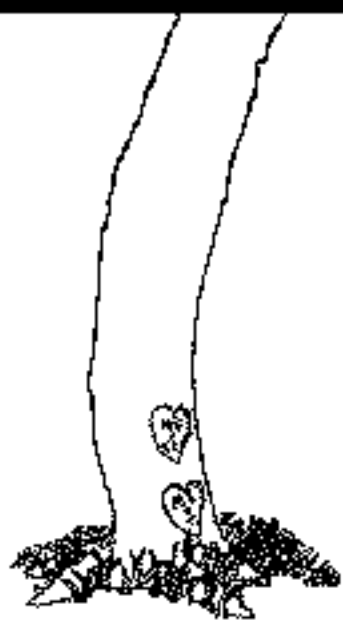
Then you will be happy."





And so the boy cut off  
her branches  
and carried them away  
to build his house.





**And the tree was happy.**

But the boy stayed away  
for a long time.  
And when he came back,  
the tree was so happy  
she could hardly speak.  
"Come, Boy," she whispered,  
"come and play."  
"I am too old and sad to play,"  
said the boy.  
"I want a boat that will  
take me far away  
from here.  
Can you give me a boat?"



And so the boy cut down her trunk



and made a boat and sailed away.





**And the tree was happy...**

**but not really.**



And after a long time  
the boy came back again.  
"I am sorry. Boy,"  
said the tree, "but I have nothing  
left to give you---



My apples are gone."  
"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 to swing  
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 am sorry," sighed the tree.  
"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 to sit and rest.  
I am very tired."  
"Well," said the tree,  
straightening herself up  
as much as she could,  
"well, an old stump is good  
for sitting and resting.  
Come, Boy, sit down.  
Sit down and rest."



And the boy did.

**And the tree was happy.**



**The End**



By Shel Silverstein

1930 - 1999

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**06/2000**