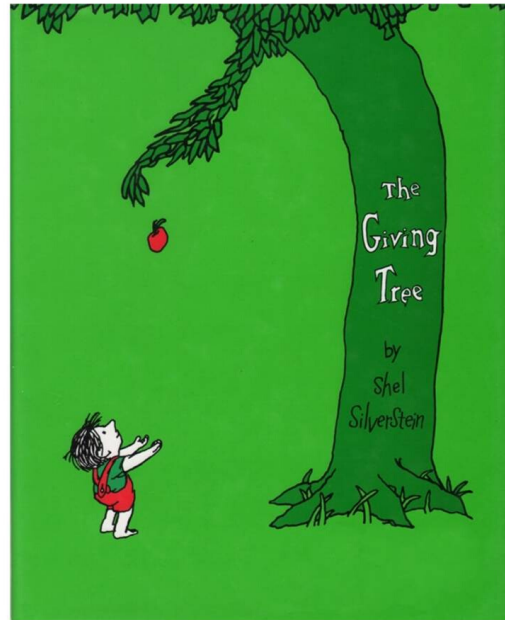




# THE GIVING TREE

## SHEL SILVERSTEIN

The Giving Tree tells the story of a young boy and a tree, their lives entwined with one another. When the boy is young, the tree is his favorite place to play and think. As he grows, he becomes more and more distant from the tree, but still the tree's love does not wane. She gives him whatever he needs to be happy, glad to continue on as a part of his life in whatever way she can be. It's a classic tale of giving.



### Questions:

1. How did the boy and the tree feel about each other when he was little? They spent a lot of time together and had a lot of fun.
2. When the boy grows up, he doesn't spend as much time with the tree. How does the tree probably feel?
3. The tree gives the boy its apples so that he can sell them and make some money. Is the tree being generous? Is it hard for the tree to give up its apples? That means that the seeds inside won't get planted and another tree won't grow. But the tree is happy to help the boy. How does the boy feel? Does he say thank you to the tree?
4. How does the tree feel when the boy is gone for a long time again? It asks the boy to spend happy time with it. Does he do it?
5. This time the boy asks for a house, and the tree gives up its branches so that he can build a house. Is it difficult for the tree to give up its branches? Does the boy say thank you?
6. When the boy comes again, what does he ask for? What does the tree give him? Would it be difficult for a tree to give up its trunk? Does the boy say thank you? Does the boy ever say thank you?
7. Think about if the tree were a person. How do you think the person would feel about someone who always comes to them asking for things, but never says thank you and never gives anything in return? How would you feel about a friend who always took but never gave? How would you feel if someone asked you to give up everything you have?
8. We need to thank people when they help us. We want to make sure that we are not only taking and never giving. When we ask for help we need to think about what we are asking of them. Are we asking for too much?