

Poems about Trees and Arbor Day

*What does he plant who plants a tree
He plants, in sap and leaf and wood,
In love of home and loyalty,
And far-cast thought of civic good
His blessing on the neighborhood.*

- Charles Lathrop Pack

TREES

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree
A tree whose hungry mouth is pressed
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;
A tree that looks at God all day
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;
A tree that may in summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.
Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.

- Joyce Kilmer

AN ARBOR DAY TREE

(for four small children)

ALL: "Dear little tree that we plant today,
What will you be when we're old and gray?"

FIRST: "The savings bank of the squirrel and mouse,
For the robin and wren an apartment house."

SECOND: "The dressing room of the butterfly's ball,
The locust's and katydid's concert hall."

THIRD: "The school boy's ladder in pleasant June,
The school girl's tent in the July noon."

FOURTH: "And my leaves shall whisper right menily,
A tale of children who planted me."

- Author Unknown

TREES OF THE FRAGRANT FOREST

*(For six children. As they take their places upon the stage,
those in seats recite the first stanza.)*

ALL: Trees of the fragrant forest,
With leaves of green unfurled,
Through summer's heat, through winter's cold
What do you do for our world?

FIRST: Our green leaves catch the raindrops
That fall with soothing sound,
Then drop them slowly, slowly down;
'Tis better for the ground.

SECOND: When, rushing down the hillside,
A mighty freshet foams,
Our giant trunks and spreading roots
Defend your happy homes.

THIRD: From burning heat in summer
We offer cool retreat,
Protect the land in winter's storm,
From cold, and wind, and sleet.

FOURTH: Our falling leaves in autumn,
By breezes turned and tossed,
Will rake a deep sponge-carpet warm,
Which saves the ground from frost.

FIFTH: We give you pulp for paper,
Our fuel gives you heat;
We furnish lumber for your homes,
And nuts and fruit to eat.

SIXTH: With strong and graceful outline,
With branches green and bare,
We fill the land through all the year,
With beauty everywhere.

ALL: So listen! From the forest
Each one a message sends
To children on this Arbor Day:
"We trees are your best friends!"

- Primary Education

