



Getting to Know a Tree



Choose a title for your poem, perhaps based on the time of year when you visited.

If you are able to work in a small group, decide which line(s) each person will work on. If you are working alone, do each line in sequence. Include at least 2 nouns and 2 adjectives in each line.

Line 1

From a distance ... Stand a short distance (3m) away from the tree trunk. What do you see? What do you hear?

Line 2

Close up ... Stand with your nose almost touching the bark of the tree trunk. What do you smell? What do you feel?

Line 3

Above me ... Look up into the highest branches. What do you see? What do you hear?

Line 4

Below me ... Look down at the base of the tree. What do you feel (under your feet)? What do you see?

Below is an example of a poem written using this template. The ellipsis (the 3 dots ...) is used to create a long pause when reading the poem. Practice reading your poem aloud. Begin each line and pause after the first few words before beginning your description. Try reading the poem aloud without the pause.

Which version do you think works best? Can you explain your answer?

A Tree in Winter

From a distance I see a giant, old tree with a thick trunk and heavy branches and hear the cold wind blowing.

Close up... I feel the rough, cracked bark and smell the musty earth around us.

Above me ... I see the spindly, dark twigs growing on the highest branches and hear the last, few leaves rustling.

Below me ... I feel the thick, hard roots and see the brown, fallen twigs the birds will use to build their nests in spring.