

TREE FUNCTION POEM

Tree Structure and Benefits Grades: K-8

Overview: (communicated by teacher)

Take your class on a nature walk around campus and observe the trees that live there. In order for these trees to successfully live and grow, they require certain things from the surrounding environment like air, water, sun, temperature and nutrients. Use the nature walk to inspire your class to create a tree poem.

Method:

1. Campus Exploration:

Walk your students around campus, exploring the different trees that grow there. While observing, have students consider what life as a tree is like.

2. Tree Poem:

Afterwards, have students complete the tree poem template below to help brainstorm some ideas for their poems.

3. Presenting:

Once complete, students can read their poems to the rest of the class.

At a glance

Skills:

Critical Thinking
Teamwork
Discussion
Urban Forestry

Lesson Delivery:

(Best/Suggested method in bold)

- Whole group
- **Small group**
- **Independent work**

Location:

(Best/Suggested location in bold)

- **Outdoor**
- **Indoors**

Materials:

Necessary

- Paper
- Pencil/Pen
- Table/writing surface

Optional

- Markers
- Colored Pencils



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Modifications & Extensions

K-2*

Modification: Picture Poetry

Create a poem as a whole class and discuss each aspect with students. Allow students to draw an abstract picture representation of their tree rather than a poem.

3-5*

Modification: Poetry Sentence Starters

Give students simple fill-in-the-blank prompts to help them write their poem, like:

My tree is named ____.

It is ____ and ____.

It likes to ____ in the wind.

It lives in a ____, ____, ____ place.

It is strong like a ____.

6-8*

Modification: Poetic Devices Mini-Lesson

Before the walk, briefly review alliteration, similes, and sensory language. Challenge students to use at least one of each in their final poem.

Extension: Poetry + Picture

After writing their poem, students can draw or collage their tree using leaves, twigs, or crayons. Display poems and artwork together in a "Tree Gallery"!

Extension: Performance Practice

After writing, students can practice reading their poem aloud to partners or small groups with dramatic expression, using the outdoor classroom as a stage.

Extension: Poetry from the Tree's Perspective

Invite students to write their poem in the voice of the tree. What does it see every day? What are its memories? What advice would it give a young sapling?



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Answer the following questions. Then, use this template to help create a poem about your tree.

If you were a tree, where would you like to live? How would you get food and water? What kind of climate would you want to live in? List some of your ideas here:

Using the nature walk as inspiration, find a tree that you are interested in.

1. What is your tree's name?
2. List two words that describe what your tree looks like.
3. Write an action verb for something your tree does in different kinds of weather (rain, wind, sun, snow).
4. Using alliteration, list 3 words that describe the place where your tree lives.
5. Use a simile to compare your tree to something else.
6. Using a blank piece of paper or the back of this sheet to write a poem about your tree.

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Example Poem 1:

Ruby
Beautiful Red
Sheds its leaves in fall
Sandy Soil Sunshine
Strong as a rock

Example Poem 2:

(Acrostic Poem)

Have students create a poem that uses each letter of a word from nature as a stem.

for example-

T: errific

R: oyal

E: nergetic

E: nveloping

Example Poem 3:

The Tree

by Aimee Nezhukumatathil

Video link





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Example Poem 4:

When I am Among the Trees

By Mary Oliver

When I am among the trees,
especially the willows and the honey locust,
equally the beech, the oaks and the pines,
they give off such hints of gladness.
I would almost say that they save me, and daily.

I am so distant from the hope of myself,
in which I have goodness, and discernment,
and never hurry through the world
but walk slowly, and bow often.

Around me the trees stir in their leaves
and call out, "Stay awhile."
The light flows from their branches.

And they call again, "It's simple," they say,
"and you too have come
into the world to do this, to go easy, to be filled
with light, and to shine."



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Tree Word Bank

Apple Arbor Ash Aspen Bamboo Banyan Bark Bark Beetle Basin
Beech Birch Blossom Bough Boulder Branch Bud Canopy Catalpa
Cedar Cedar Tree Cherry Chestnut Climber Conifer Crown Cypress
Deciduous Dogwood Elm Evergreen Fallen Fir Flower Forest
Fruiting Grove Hardwood Hawthorn Hazel Heartwood Hemlock
Hickory Juniper Larch Laurel Leaf Leaf Litter Linden Live Oak Locust
Magnolia Maple Mesquite Mulberry Myrtle Nesting Nutmeg Oak
Oak Leaf Olive Orchard Palm Peach Pear Pecan Pine Pine Needle
Pinecone Plantation Poplar Rainforest Redwood Root Rowan Sap
Sapling Sassafras Seed Shade Shade Tree Shrub Softwood Spruce
Stump Sycamore Timber Trunk Twigs Underbrush Vine Walnut
Willow Wood Woodland Woods Wrinkled



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Nature Word Bank

Autumn Bark Basin Beach Berry Blossom Breeze Brook Bubbly Bud
Burrow Calm Canyon Cave Cedar Chilly Cliff Cloudy Coast Coral
Cove Creek Crinkle Crystal Current Dawn Desert Driftwood Dusk
Earthy Echo Erosion Evergreen Field Fern Fluffy Foamy Forest Fossil
Frost Furry Galaxy Geyser Glacier Glisten Grass Grove Hazy Horizon
Iceberg Jungle Lagoon Lake Leafy Lush Meadow Meteor Misty
Moon Moss Mountain Muddy Murky Nest Ocean Oasis Pebble Pine
Puddle Quartz Rain Rainbow Reef River Rocky Root Sandy Scent
Seaweed Shimmer Shore Sky Snowy Soil Solar Sparkle Spring Stone
Stormy Stream Sunset Sunshine Thunder Tide Tranquil Twilight
Valley Vapor Volcano Waterfall Wave Wild Windy Woodland

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ELAR and Science TEKS Alignment

Module	Lesson	Science TEKS Alignment
2: Tree Structure and Benefits	6.4 Tree Function Poem	K.1A, K.5A, K.9A 1.1A, 1.10A, 1.9A 2.1A, 2.10A, 2.9A 3.1A, 3.8A, 3.12A, 3.9A, 3.1F 4.1A, 4.1F, 4.10A, 4.12A 5.1A, 5.10A, 5.12A, 5.13A, 5.14A 6.1A, 6.9A, 6.11A, 6.12A 7.1A, 7.13A, 7.12A, 7.9A 8.1A, 8.5A, 8.11A, 8.12A, 8.13A
		ELAR TEKS Alignment
2: Tree Structure and Benefits	6.4 Tree Function Poem	K.1A, K.2A, K.9A, K.6A, K.7A 1.1A, 1.2A, 1.6A, 1.7A, 1.9A 2.1A, 2.2A, 2.9A, 2.6A, 2.7A 3.1A, 3.2A, 3.10A, 3.6A, 3.7A 4.1A, 4.2A, 4.7A, 4.10A 5.1A, 5.2A, 5.6A, 5.7A, 5.10A 6.1A, 6.2A, 6.6A, 6.7A, 6.10A 7.1A, 7.2A, 7.7A, 7.10A 8.1A, 8.2A, 8.7A, 8.10A, 8.6A