



Old Elm Speaks: Tree Poems

By Kristine O'Connell George

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This tree across the stream is a trickier bridge than it might seem... The author of *The Great From Race and Other Poems* has created a collection of short poems that celebrate trees and the amazing variety of ways they touch our lives. Deceptively simple verses reveal what trees think about and what they say to one another, as well as how they look and all the things they do for us. Humor and an unerring ear for the sounds of language make these poems an irresistible read-aloud; the luminous oil paintings evoke a country setting and the children who enjoy it through the year.

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Old Elm Speaks: Tree Poems By Kristine O'Connell George Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

George and Kiesler (*The Great Frog Race and Other Poems*) team up for another close look at the natural world with poetry that invites readers to meditate on trees. This time the visual delights described in George's poems slightly outshine the illustrations. The best of Kiesler's oil paintings are breathtaking: a trio of doves tucking their heads underwing in the starlight, browning pumpkin vines in the foreground of a pastoral scene, the moon snagged by a branch in the book's title poem. Often, however, the paintings—particularly those of children—seem to be frozen in time, lacking the energy and vitality of the images in the poetry. George plays nimbly with language and form. Her invented words in "Tree Traffic" seem simultaneously strange and familiar: squirrels are "commuters... rippling up and down,/ tails unfurled./ The treeway is/ heavily squirreled." George also surprises readers with creative rhyme schemes, such as that of "Cooperation," in which two horses, sharing the shade of one tree, stand "muzzle to rump/ rump to muzzle/ like a jigsaw puzzle." Especially elegant is George's description of a spring tree bud, "a tiny velveteen satchel,/ the color of pale cream" inside of which readers can find "one rolled and folded/ neatly packed/ leaf." Dedicated to "the saplings," this leaf-filled collection would make just the right gift for nature lovers. Ages 5-9. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From School Library Journal

Kindergarten-Grade 4—Trees in all seasons and used for many reasons are imaginatively captured in short poems and richly textured full-color oil paintings. The delightful use of language plays on the senses as it creates word pictures that are sure to entertain. The selections beg to be read-aloud and shared. Free verse, haiku, and bits of rhymes and rhythms reflect the joy children feel as they play in and about or observe all types of trees throughout the year. A celebration of these mighty living things and the people who love them. *Pamela K. Bomboy, Chesterfield County Public Schools, VA*
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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 2⁺-6. The original poems in this lovely, simple collection celebrate every aspect of trees in a variety of poetic forms including free verse, rhyme, and haiku. Using the voice of the trees themselves or of the people with whom they have contact, an appreciation for the majestic nature of these everyday things is conveyed throughout. The first poem has an old oak silently introducing itself to a boy, "I've been waiting / watching you / grow taller. / I have grown too. Step closer. / Let's see / how high / you can / climb." Other poems have a child planting a tree for arbor day, siblings playing hide-and-seek, a traffic jam of squirrels, a fallen tree now serving as a bridge, a delightful look at a beaver dam ("that architectural team / with another scheme / to redesign the stream"), a fly-fishing boy who snags a pine, and a willow who, while admiring her reflection, is interrupted by a heron. As with her *Great Frog Race and Other Poems* (1997), George conveys a deep understanding of nature, here particularly of trees, in a way that is readily accessible to children. Kiesler's warm oil paintings beautifully complement the poems, making for a totally satisfying experience that is sure to be a favorite of anyone who's ever stopped to notice trees. *Helen Rosenberg*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Cary Barrett:

Spent a free the perfect time to be fun activity to do! A lot of people spent their spare time with their family, or their own friends. Usually they doing activity like watching television, about to beach, or picnic inside park. They actually doing same task every week. Do you feel it? Do you want to something different to fill your personal free time/ holiday? Can be reading a book can be option to fill your free of charge time/ holiday. The first thing you ask may be what kinds of reserve that you should read. If you want to try out look for book, may be the e-book untitled Old Elm Speaks: Tree Poems can be excellent book to read. May be it can be best activity to you.

Joshua Mendez:

Reading can called imagination hangout, why? Because if you are reading a book especially book entitled Old Elm Speaks: Tree Poems your brain will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each aspect that maybe unfamiliar for but surely will end up your mind friends. Imaging just about every word written in a e-book then become one type conclusion and explanation this maybe you never get prior to. The Old Elm Speaks: Tree Poems giving you an additional experience more than blown away your mind but also giving you useful facts for your better life within this era. So now let us present to you the relaxing pattern at this point is your body and mind will likely be pleased when you are finished reading through it, like winning a game. Do you want to try this extraordinary spending spare time activity?

Jason Braden:

You could spend your free time to study this book this reserve. This Old Elm Speaks: Tree Poems is simple to develop you can read it in the recreation area, in the beach, train and also soon. If you did not include much space to bring typically the printed book, you can buy the actual e-book. It is make you easier to read it. You can save the book in your smart phone. Consequently there are a lot of benefits that you will get when you buy this book.

Francis Corder:

This Old Elm Speaks: Tree Poems is fresh way for you who has curiosity to look for some information since it relief your hunger of information. Getting deeper you onto it getting knowledge more you know or you who still having small amount of digest in reading this Old Elm Speaks: Tree Poems can be the light food for you because the information inside this specific book is easy to get by anyone. These books create itself in the form and that is reachable by anyone, yes I mean in the e-book web form. People who think that in e-book form make them feel tired even dizzy this publication is the answer. So there isn't any in reading a e-book especially this one. You can find actually looking for. It should be here for you actually. So , don't miss this! Just read this e-book sort for your better life and knowledge.

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