

THE GIVING TREE

By Shel Silverstein

Once there was a tree....and she loved a little boy.

And every day the boy would come and he would gather her leaves and make them into crowns and play king of the forest. He would climb up her trunk and swing from her branches and eat apples.

And they would play hide-and-go-seek.

And when he was tired, he would sleep in her shade.

And the boy loved the tree...

And the tree was happy.

But time went by.

And the boy grew older.

And the tree was often alone.

Then one day the boy came to the tree and the tree said, "Come, Boy, come and climb up my trunk and swing from my branches and eat apples and play in my shade and be happy."

"I am too big to climb and play," said the boy.

"I want to buy things and have fun.

I want some money.

Can you give me some money?"

"I'm sorry," said the tree, "but I have no money.

I have only leaves and apples.

Take my apples, Boy, and sell them in the city. Then you will have money and you will be happy."

And so the boy climbed up the tree and gathered her apples and carried them away.

And the tree was happy.

But the boy stayed away for a long time...and the tree was sad.

And then one day the boy came back and the tree shook with joy and she said, "Come, Boy, climb up my trunk and swing from my branches and be happy..."

"I am too busy to climb trees," said the boy.

"I want a house to keep me warm," he said.

"I want a wife and I want children, and so I need a house.

Can you give me a house?"

"I have no house," said the tree.

"The forest is my house, but you may cut off my branches and build a house.

Then you will be happy."

And so the boy cut off her branches and carried them away to build his house.

And the tree was happy.

But the boy stayed away for a long time.

And when he came back, the tree was so happy she could hardly speak.

"Come, Boy, she whispered,

"Come and play."

"I am too old and sad to play," said the boy.

"I want a boat that will take me far away from here.

Can you give me a boat?"

"Cut down my trunk and make a boat," said the tree.

"Then you can sail away...and be happy."

And so the boy cut down her trunk and made a boat and sailed away.

And the tree was happy...but not really.

And after a long time the boy came back again.

"I am sorry, Boy," said the tree,

"but I have nothing left to give you— My apples are gone."



“My teeth are too weak for apples,” said the boy.

“My branches are gone,” said the tree. “You cannot swing on them—”

“I am too old to swing on branches,” said the boy.

“My trunk is gone,” said the tree. “You cannot climb—”

“I am too tired to climb,” said the boy.

“I am sorry,” singed the tree.

“I wish that I could give you something...but I have nothing left. I am just an old stump. I am sorry...”

“I don’t need very much now,” said the boy,

“just a quiet place to sit and rest. I am very tired.”

“Well,” said the tree, straightening herself up as much as she could,

“Well, an old stump is good for sitting and resting. Come, boy, sit down. Sit down and rest.” And the boy did.

And the tree was happy.

The end

*To boy and girl scouts,
The Giving Tree is one of my favorite children stories. I am sharing it with you hoping that it would help you to realize the love, care and the sacrifice your parents have for you are the same as the love, care and sacrifice of the tree to the little boy. Wouldn't you love, care and obey your parents ... and make them happy???*

Tr. Hồng Nhạn

Best Thing about Girl Scouts

The best thing about Girl Scouts is helping people. My troop did service hours at the food bank. It was really fun because we got to package food into the boxes, we package cereal, juice, corn, milk, rice, bean, peaches and peanut butter. The best thing about the food bank was that we felt good at the end because we had helped other people that could not afford everyday meals.

Not only does our troop help other people, but

we have fun for ourselves too. The Scout O’ Rama was the best field trip so far. It was really fun because there were so many things to do. We learn how to tie different knots, went on rides, and we also won different prizes from different booths.

Girl Scouts is really fun because there are a lot of activities to do. I always look forward to coming to Girl Scouts every Saturday.

Darlene Tieu

