



Mr. Willowby's Christmas Tree
By Robert Barry

Language Arts Lesson: Rhyming words

After reading the story Mr. Willowby's Christmas Tree, have students identify the rhyming words they heard in the story. You might find it necessary to reread the story, stopping on each page, for them to successfully uncover all of the words.

Ask students to help you make a list of the rhyming words in the story. After the list is complete, examine the reason for the rhyme. Discuss that some rhyming words end with the same letter combinations (green-seen) and others with different combinations producing the same sound (tree-delivery).

For additional experience with words that rhyme, ask students to complete one or both of the sheets in this packet. Students can complete these individually, in small groups, or as a class.

Language Arts Lesson: Sequencing

Introduce (or review) the term sequence with students. Select a few common daily occurrences common to the group you are working with and ask them to tell you the sequence in which those are completed. Some options might include the morning routine or making a sandwich. Alternatively, you might choose to begin the discussion by performing a common task wildly out of sequence. For example, place your socks on over your shoes or pretend to begin the lesson with "closing statements" such as, "The End! Wasn't that a great story!" The sillier, the better!

Discuss the importance of sequence in understanding a story. Ask students to retell the events of *Mr. Willowby's Christmas Tree*. Then have them complete the sequencing sheet in this packet. Make the book available for students who need to review the story.

If students need additional practice, write the events of the story in sentence strips and ask students (individually or as a class) to place the strips in order from what happened first to what happened last.

Science Lesson: Life Cycle of a Tree

Discuss the life cycle of a conifer tree with the students. Share with them the sequence of events from seed to seed. You can find information about the life cycle of a REAL TREE at <http://www.realtrees4kids.org/threefive/getgrowing.htm>.

Draw a large circle on the board and label it with the steps of a conifer life cycle (Seeds grow to seedlings. Seedlings develop into mature trees which develop cones. Pollination occurs and cones develop seeds. Seeds drop to the ground to germinate and create additional seedlings.) Use an image appropriate for each stage of development. Draw arrows from one part to the next to indicate that the cycle never ends.

Ask students to complete the two activities provided in this packet.



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Social Studies Lesson: Sharing

Discuss with the students how Mr. Willowby shared with Miss Adelaide. Pose leading questions to lead students to examine the concepts of sharing and reuse.

Some sample questions are:

- What did Mr. Willowby share? (treetop)
- What could have been done with the leftover tree tops?
- How might the leftover treetops have been reused?

Then discuss what things your students share with each other and with their families. How does sharing make them feel? How does it make the person they shared with feel? What are good things to share with others? What are some things that you should not share with others?

Art Lesson: Life Cycle of a tree

Cut large construction paper length-wise. You will need enough paper so that each student will have one sheet. For younger students, fold the paper into 6 equal sections, write "Life Cycle of a Tree" and student's name in the first section, and number the remaining parts 1-5.

Ask students to draw detailed pictures of each step in the tree life cycle, one step in each part. For example, in part one the student might draw a seed in the ground. In part two, the drawing might contain a seed that has grown into a seedling. In part three, the seedling might become a mature tree. In part four, the mature tree may have grown cones. Part five may show the cones dropping their seeds.

Invite students to include things that the tree would need to grow – sun, light, soil, and water. Ask students to write captions for each step above their drawings.

When finished, staple the two ends of the paper together on the top and the bottom with the drawings on the outside. This forms a cylinder shape with their drawings to show that a life cycle never ends.

Math Lesson: Addition and Subtraction

Write addition or subtraction problems for your students to solve inside the Christmas tree outline provided in this packet. You could also draw Christmas balls as ornaments hanging from the branches and write addition or subtraction problems on them. Draw Christmas presents under the tree for more addition or subtraction problems.



REAL TREES 4 Kids!

The story and science of REAL TREE farming.



Grades K-2 | Grades 3-5 | Grades 6-8 | Grades 9-12

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Language Arts Lesson: Writing Rhyming Words

Directions: Write sentences telling about the story using the rhyming words from the list. Draw a picture of your favorite part of the story.



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Language Arts Lesson: Sequencing

Directions: Number the events from the story in the correct order.

_____ Benjamin Rabbit found a Christmas tree.

_____ Mr. Willowby's tree arrived at his house.

_____ Barnaby Bear almost got hit in the eye by the tree.

_____ Mistletoe Mouse saw the tiny tip of a tree in the snow.

_____ Frisky Fox spied the tree.

_____ Mr. Willowby gave the tree top to Miss Adelaide.

_____ Timm, the gardener, saw the tree top in the trash.



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Science Lesson: Life Cycle of a Tree

Directions: Number the sentences in order to show the life cycle of a conifer tree.

_____ The cones drop seeds.

_____ The stem or trunk grows above the ground.

_____ The seed of a tree is planted and roots begin to grow.

_____ The tree grows branches and needles.

_____ Cones grow on the tree.



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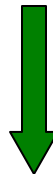
Science Lesson: Life Cycle of a Tree

Directions: Starting with line 1, draw a picture for each step of the tree life cycle.



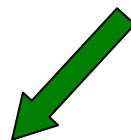
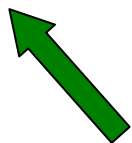
5. _____

1. _____



4. _____

2. _____



3. _____



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Directions: Complete the addition or subtraction problems.

