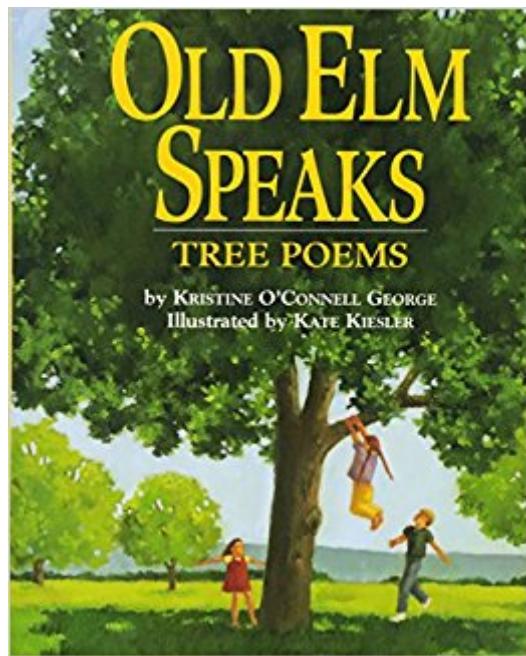


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Old Elm Speaks: Tree Poems



Synopsis

This tree across the stream is a trickier bridge than it might seem... The author of The Great Frog 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.

Book Information

Paperback: 48 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (March 12, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0618752420

ISBN-13: 978-0618752423

Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.2 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 12 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #198,642 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #55 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Forests & Trees #545 in Books > Children's Books > Early Learning > Poetry #1092 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

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 paintingsAparticularly those of childrenAseem 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 squirrelled." 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.

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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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I bought this for my poetry unit for my elementary classroom. The poems are a bit hard and old fashioned for my third graders. However, it's a solid collection of poems to teach all skills - rhyming, not rhyming, shape, alliteration, personification, repetition, etc.

great poems!

Excellent early childhood poetry book.

After receiving this book, the pages at the top were glued together. Tried to be careful and separate them, but the pages ripped as a result.

Perfect as a part of my classroom reading program.

Excited to use this with my class!

I searched for Tree Poems and *poof* Old Elm Speaks. I love this collection of poetry for all ages. Few things illustrate the life cycle like a tree and there are too many wonderful poems to mention one by one. After you read a few pages, you open your eyes wider to the world around you - isn't that what poetry is for?

I love this collection! There are a few real gems in it, and my middle schoolers seem to enjoy the poems. That alone speaks volumes. A must for every classroom study of poetry.

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