1. The Giving Tree   by Shel Silverstein

Once, there was a tree. She loved a little boy. Every day the boy would come and play.

He would climb up her trunk and swing from her branches and eat apples. They would play hide-and-go-seek. When he was tired, he would sleep in her shade. The boy loved the tree very much and the tree was happy.

But time went by, and the boy grew older. The tree was often alone. One day, the boy came to the tree and the tree shook with joy,

She said, "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 busy to climb trees," said the boy. "I want a house to keep my family warm", he said. "Can you give me a house?"

"I have no house", said the tree. "The forest is my house," said the tree. "But you may cut off my branches and build a house. Then you will be happy. "

So the boy cut off her branches and carried them away to build his house. The tree was happy.

But the boy stayed away for a long time…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 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."

So the boy cut down her trunk and made a boat and sailed away. The tree was happy… But not really.

After a long time, the boy came back again.

"I am sorry," sighed 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, "an old stump is good for sitting and resting. Come, Boy, sit down… Sit down and rest."

The boy did, and the tree was happy.