

## **Notes for Tree Poetry Lesson**

Developed by Ann Gengarely, The Poetry Studio

I understand that you have each chosen a tree, a tree you have become friends with.

How did you choose which tree you wanted?

I'm excited to have the chance to write poems about trees with you: trees hold a special place in my heart.

During the ice storm last winter, so many trees fell, and I felt deep grief as though I were losing a friend.

Remember when you were at the Poetry Studio – taking a poetry walk – I reminded you that everything in nature, according to the Native Americans, has a spirit!

When you write about your tree, imagine it having feelings, a heart.

Before I read to you, I wanted us to think about some questions.

- What's special about trees?
- What's special about your tree?
- How does your tree talk to you?
- Think about different parts of trees and what it feels like to have them.  
What does it feel like to have roots entering the dark earth?  
To have branches drooping down or reaching toward the sky?
- What gifts do trees give? Be a poet; not a scientist!

**TREE POEMS:  
DIFFERENT KINDS OF VOICES**

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**1. MASK POEM – IMAGINE BEING YOUR TREE; TAKE ITS VOICE.**

WHAT KIND OF WEATHER DO YOU LIKE?

WHERE DO YOU LIVE? ARE YOU ALONE? DO YOU HAVE NEIGHBORS?

ARE YOU YOUNG OR OLD?

ARE YOU HEALTHY OR DYING?

WHAT ARE YOUR MEMORIES?

WHAT DOES IT FEEL LIKE TO HAVE ROOTS ENTERING THE DARK EARTH?

WHAT DOES IT FEEL LIKE TO HAVE BRANCHES DROOPING DOWN OR  
REACHING  
TOWARD THE SKY?

WHAT IS YOUR SPIRIT/HEART LIKE?

**2. ODE OR LOVE SONG – CELEBRATE YOUR TREE; SHOW YOUR TREE HOW  
THANKFUL YOU ARE FOR IT**

REMEMBER IN AN ODE, THE POET CAN SPEAK TO ITS SUBJECT (TREE)  
OR ABOUT IT

**3. PORTRAIT – DESCRIBING POEM**

YOU COULD DESCRIBE YOUR TREE AND INCLUDE YOUR HEART'S FEELINGS  
ABOUT THE TREE