



Forestry England

Tribute to Trees

family activity

In 2019 the Forestry Commission celebrated 100 years of forestry. We invited people to send us letters, poems, stories and memories celebrating trees and woodlands everywhere.

Now it's your time to have a go.

What do I need?

- Pen
- Paper

What is a tribute?

An act, a statement, or gift that is intended to show gratitude, respect or admiration.

Take a moment

Be inspired by sitting under a tree in your garden or finding a quiet place to sit and visualise a tree or woodland walk near you. Open a window and breathe in the air, and listen to the sounds, can you see any trees?

Don't forget to switch off those mobile devices.



Warm up activities

If you have access to a tree in your garden, spend a few moments getting to know it.

Lay under it and look up to the sky through the branches. Have a feel of the bark. Can you give it a hug or find a seed or leaf on the ground? Have a sniff and then listen to the sounds of the trees and wildlife around you.



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Let's get creative

What are you feeling?

If you are inside have a feel of an object in your discovery bag, without looking.

Describe what it feels like - shape, size, texture. Make a note of the words. If you are outside make a list of what you see, hear and feel.

Use these words to make a poem or inspire a story.

Make an acrostic poem

This is where the first letter of each line spells out a word. For example:

Darting through the woodland
Ears that twitch at every sound
Eyes are brown conkers
Running like the wind

Now try making your own spelling out the word **TREE** or **FOREST**.

Speak a poem together

Choose a word and ask the person next to you to make a sentence based around that word. Take it in turns to come up with the next line.

Focus on a colour and then write anything that inspires you about that colour and trees. For example; green is for leaf, green is a colour of spring.

Make a list of tree parts and a list of verbs – connect some of the tree parts with the verbs – what do you come up with? Bark – rough; leaf-rustle? Make a note of your newly created words and see where it takes you.

Don't worry if you can't get started, why not have a go at drawing or creating a piece of art on the ground. You could add some words next to it and take a photo.

Share your creations

- Act out your poem or story while someone in your family reads it out.
- Read out your creation in a silly voice; a happy voice, a whisper.
- Make puppets of the characters in your poem or story and create a puppet show.

- Set your piece of work to music and create a song.
- Invite your friends or grandparents to watch, link up with them using Skype or Whatsapp.
- Write your creation on a postcard and post it to friends or family.

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