



## Old Elm Speaks: Tree Poems

By Kristine O'Connell George

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

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## Old Elm Speaks: Tree Poems By Kristine O'Connell George Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

#### From Publishers Weekly

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 paintingsA particularly 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. Ages 5-9.

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#### From School Library Journal

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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#### From Booklist

Gr. 2^6. The original poems in this lovely, simple collection celebrate every aspect of trees in a variety of poetic forms including free verse, rhyme, and haiku. Using the voice of the trees themselves or of the people with whom they have contact, an appreciation for the majestic nature of these everyday things is conveyed throughout. The first poem has an old oak silently introducing itself to a boy, "I've been waiting / watching you / grow taller. / I have grown too. Step closer. / Let's see / how high / you can / climb." Other poems have a child planting a tree for arbor day, siblings playing hide-and-seek, a traffic jam of squirrels, a fallen tree now serving as a bridge, a delightful look at a beaver dam ("that architectural team / with another scheme / to redesign the stream"), a fly-fishing boy who snags a pine, and a willow who, while admiring her reflection, is interrupted by a heron. As with her *Great Frog Race and Other Poems* (1997), George conveys a deep understanding of nature, here particularly of trees, in a way that is readily accessible to children. Kiesler's warm oil paintings beautifully complement the poems, making for a totally satisfying experience that is sure to be a favorite of anyone who's ever stopped to notice trees. *Helen Rosenberg*

### Users Review

#### From reader reviews:

**Betty Epperson:**

Book is actually written, printed, or illustrated for everything. You can know everything you want by a reserve. Book has a different type. To be sure that book is important factor to bring us around the world. Beside that you can your reading skill was fluently. A book Old Elm Speaks: Tree Poems will make you to end up being smarter. You can feel considerably more confidence if you can know about almost everything. But some of you think that open or reading any book make you bored. It's not make you fun. Why they may be thought like that? Have you in search of best book or ideal book with you?

**Rose Nguyen:**

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**Nancy Kline:**

Playing with family in a very park, coming to see the ocean world or hanging out with good friends is thing that usually you have done when you have spare time, after that why you don't try issue that really opposite from that. A single activity that make you not feeling tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition details. Even you love Old Elm Speaks: Tree Poems, you can enjoy both. It is very good combination right, you still want to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh seriously its mind hangout people. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its referred to as reading friends.

**Ruth Little:**

In this period globalization it is important to someone to find information. The information will make anyone to understand the condition of the world. The fitness of the world makes the information quicker to share. You can find a lot of sources to get information example: internet, magazine, book, and soon. You will see that now, a lot of publisher in which print many kinds of book. Typically the book that recommended for you is Old Elm Speaks: Tree Poems this publication consist a lot of the information of the condition of this world now. This specific book was represented how do the world has grown up. The words styles that writer use for explain it is easy to understand. The writer made some analysis when he makes this book. Honestly, that is why this book appropriate all of you.

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