



## 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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- Brand: Sandpiper
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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 paintings—particularly those of children—seem 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 squirreled." 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<sup>+</sup>-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:

**Evelyn Blow:**

This Old Elm Speaks: Tree Poems book is not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you receive by reading this book is definitely information inside this e-book incredible fresh, you will get facts which is getting deeper a person read a lot of information you will get. That Old Elm Speaks: Tree Poems without we recognize teach the one who reading it become critical in contemplating and analyzing. Don't become worry Old Elm Speaks: Tree Poems can bring if you are and not make your handbag space or bookshelves' turn into full because you can have it inside your lovely laptop even phone. This Old Elm Speaks: Tree Poems having great arrangement in word in addition to layout, so you will not really feel uninterested in reading.

**Richard Zhang:**

Reading can called mind hangout, why? Because if you find yourself reading a book particularly book entitled Old Elm Speaks: Tree Poems the mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every aspect that maybe mysterious for but surely can be your mind friends. Imaging just about every word written in a book then become one contact form conclusion and explanation in which maybe you never get just before. The Old Elm Speaks: Tree Poems giving you a different experience more than blown away your brain but also giving you useful information for your better life in this particular era. So now let us teach you the relaxing pattern at this point is your body and mind will likely be pleased when you are finished reading through it, like winning a casino game. Do you want to try this extraordinary spending spare time activity?

**Sandra Leggett:**

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**Donna Canales:**

As a pupil exactly feel bored to help reading. If their teacher inquired them to go to the library as well as to make summary for some guide, they are complained. Just tiny students that has reading's heart or real their interest. They just do what the professor want, like asked to the library. They go to there but nothing reading really. Any students feel that reading through is not important, boring and also can't see colorful photos on there. Yeah, it is to become complicated. Book is very important for you. As we know that on this period, many ways to get whatever we wish. Likewise word says, many ways to reach Chinese's country. So , this Old Elm Speaks: Tree Poems can make you really feel more interested to read.

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