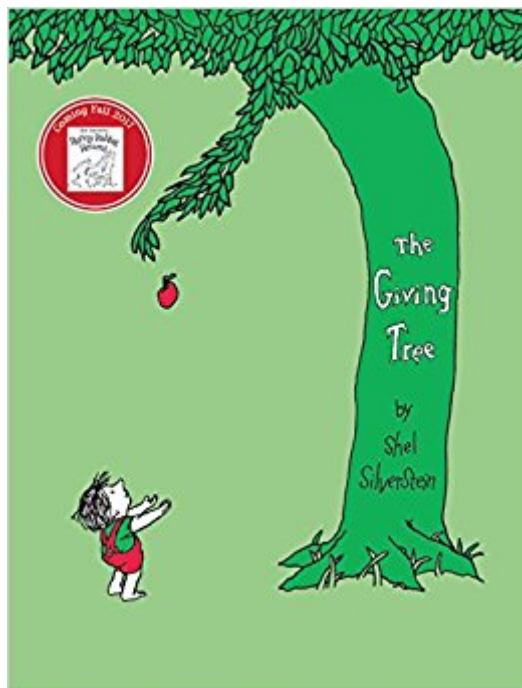


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# The Giving Tree



## Synopsis

The Giving Tree is fifty! Celebrate with this special edition that features a stunning metallic green jacket and a gold anniversary sticker. The Giving Tree, a story of unforgettable perception, beautifully written and illustrated by the gifted and versatile Shel Silverstein, has been a classic favorite for generations. Since it was first published fifty years ago, Shel Silverstein's poignant picture book for readers of all ages has offered a touching interpretation of the gift of giving and a serene acceptance of another's capacity to love in return. Shel Silverstein's incomparable career as a bestselling children's book author and illustrator began with *Lafcadio, the Lion Who Shot Back*. He is also the creator of picture books including *A Giraffe and a Half, Who Wants a Cheap Rhinoceros?*, *The Missing Piece*, *The Missing Piece Meets the Big O*, and the perennial favorite *The Giving Tree*, and of classic poetry collections such as *Where the Sidewalk Ends*, *A Light in the Attic*, *Falling Up*, *Every Thing On It*, *Don't Bump the Glump!*, and *Runny Babbit*. And don't miss *Runny Babbit Returns*, the new book from Shel Silverstein!

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 530L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 57 pages

Publisher: Harper & Row; 1st edition (1964)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0060256656

ISBN-13: 978-0060256654

Product Dimensions: 7.5 x 0.4 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 2,876 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #251 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in [Books > Reference > English as a Second Language](#) #8 in [Books > Children's Books > Classics](#)

Age Range: 1 - 8 years

Grade Level: 2 - 3

## Customer Reviews

To say that this particular apple tree is a "giving tree" is an understatement. In Shel Silverstein's popular tale of few words and simple line drawings, a tree starts out as a leafy playground, shade provider, and apple bearer for a rambunctious little boy. Making the boy happy makes the tree happy, but with time it becomes more challenging for the generous tree to meet his needs. When he

asks for money, she suggests that he sell her apples. When he asks for a house, she offers her branches for lumber. When the boy is old, too old and sad to play in the tree, he asks the tree for a boat. She suggests that he cut her down to a stump so he can craft a boat out of her trunk. He unthinkingly does it. At this point in the story, the double-page spread shows a pathetic solitary stump, poignantly cut down to the heart the boy once carved into the tree as a child that said "M.E. + T." "And then the tree was happy... but not really." When there's nothing left of her, the boy returns again as an old man, needing a quiet place to sit and rest. The stump offers up her services, and he sits on it. "And the tree was happy." While the message of this book is unclear (Take and take and take? Give and give and give? Complete self-sacrifice is good? Complete self-sacrifice is infinitely sad?), Silverstein has perhaps deliberately left the book open to interpretation. (All ages) --Karin Snelson

"If you're looking for a children's book that teaches generosity or unselfishness, most people will point you right to *The Giving Tree*, Shel Silverstein's lovely story of a tree that will do anything for the boy it loves and for good reason. This classic is always a good place to start." (Brightly.com)

Whenever I am invited to a baby shower, this is always a gift from my husband & myself. I have even chose this book as a house warming gift. Like movies, books of all kinds are very personal. What I mean is everyones perception of what they are viewing , in this case reading are very different. All that I can honestly say about this book, what some people say is "controversial" is it touches on feelingsteaches about selfishnessteaches about selflessnessteaches about caringteaches about givingthis book really tugs at all the emotions everyone goes through one time or another. Or even all at once. It has turned into a discussion book for all my grandkids. Through your own eyes, minds & hearts is how each person feels & experiences when they read this book, or has it read to them. The book is a hardback & comes with a cover resembling the cover of the book. There are only 30 pages to these book. The illustrations are clean & simple black drawings on crisp white pages. These pages aren't numbered, just clean illustrations. I hope this review helped. I keep my copy in our livingroom, it's there always. "THANKS FOR READING, BYE"

I am a grown woman and this children's book still makes me cry everytime. I got the hard bound addition so my kids could hold onto it. I have optimism it won't get destroyed. *The Giving Tree* is a

must read. It teaches empathy, love, altruism, and touches on human greed. The tree should have a bit more self respect, but we all know the tree is basically a representation of parenting and we never stop giving, do we? It's a wonderful tale, and the closest explanation of a parents love for a child as we can put into words and pictures. I believe this is a beautiful book that will be cherished generation to generation. The Giving Tree is a timeless classic, and a beautiful gift to children and parents.

Be aware that if you try to download this book to a paperwhite or regular kindle it will tell you that "the item is not compatible with this device." Just because it says Kindle format does not mean it is compatible with all kindle devices.

My children grew up loving reading this story, so I eagerly purchased it on Kindle, hoping to read it to my grandchild. Unfortunately the print is so small, not adjustable at all, making it very difficult to read. I hope they re-release it with adjustable font.

I could see how this book has garnered so many different viewpoints but I honestly don't think it's worthy of a one star. Five star? Absolutely. To me, this book is an great springboard to teach kids that there are some people who are takers - they'll take everything from you - happily and willingly - until there's nothing left. Some kids grow up to be just that - takers. They take from their parents/spouses/friends/etc without thought of what they are doing to the giver. There's dysfunctional relationships everywhere and this is a book that I used to introduce that concept and talk about it with my kids. It is a springboard for deep questions for kids... Do you think the tree should have given so much until she destroyed herself? Why do you think she did that? Do you think the boy should have accepted her gifts? Do you think he hurt her or did she hurt herself? Or both? Do you think this happens in real life? What do you think the tree should have done instead? How do you think the story would have ended had she told him no or not offered to fix his problems? Of course, after all those questions, you can use it as a springboard for another life tool... the power of saying "no." You can love someone so much that you tell them no. And that's another lesson I think this book can help kids/adults with. Love doesn't mean always saying yes and sacrificing so much. Shel Silverstein was able to squeeze in a serious story here. I don't think he intended for the tree to be some martyr that's representative of religious figures or a representative of unconditional love. That seems unlike SS. He always went deeper than that, that's what made his work so popular and brilliant. Shel Silverstein often wrote about the dark side of

feelings/relationships/attitudes in a way that made kids/adults think and I think "The Giving Tree" is just a continuation of that dark side of humanity. I think if we can talk about the dark side of humanity with our kids and how it hurts others... maybe we can make them aware enough to grow beyond it.

My grand nephew and his half sisters adore this book by Shel Silverstein and some of them remember it with fondness from school. My 5 year old nephew recently lost his beloved LaLa and I have shared with him that no matter what or where things change he will carry the lessons of the Giving Tree in his heart as always just like he will his LaLa no matter where she is she will always be with him.

this is such a classic book for the millennial generation. my two kids are in their 20's now but i can remember sitting on the beds with them as they were getting tucked in and reading this story over and over...they loved it and every single one of their friends who came to the house and stayed for a while or for overnight, knew this story....along with all the rest of shel silverstein's books...we had every single one and read them over and over...its right up there with classics for that generation like calvin and hobbs, where's waldo, and the classics me and my wife read them at bedtime...including the entire Holy Bible. read to your children...give them the compulsiveness of picking up good books and reading them.

The message was kind - and it held my five year old's interest. We purchased the author's narration on CD. The reason for 4 stars was personal - I couldn't get past the harmonica playing in the background... :/

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