

# Poems about Trees and Arbor Day

*What does he plant who plants a tree  
He plants, in sap and leaf and wood,  
In love of home and loyalty,  
And far-cast thought of civic good  
His blessing on the neighborhood.*

- Charles Lathrop Pack

## TREES

I think that I shall never see  
A poem lovely as a tree  
A tree whose hungry mouth is pressed  
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;  
A tree that looks at God all day  
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;  
A tree that may in summer wear  
A nest of robins in her hair;  
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;  
Who intimately lives with rain.  
Poems are made by fools like me,  
But only God can make a tree.

- Joyce Kilmer

## AN ARBOR DAY TREE

*(for four small children)*

ALL: "Dear little tree that we plant today,  
What will you be when we're old and gray?"

FIRST: "The savings bank of the squirrel and mouse,  
For the robin and wren an apartment house."

SECOND: "The dressing room of the butterfly's ball,  
The locust's and katydid's concert hall."

THIRD: "The school boy's ladder in pleasant June,  
The school girl's tent in the July noon."

FOURTH: "And my leaves shall whisper right menily,  
A tale of children who planted me."

- Author Unknown

## TREES OF THE FRAGRANT FOREST

*(For six children. As they take their places upon the stage,  
those in seats recite the first stanza.)*

ALL: Trees of the fragrant forest,  
With leaves of green unfurled,  
Through summer's heat, through winter's cold  
What do you do for our world?

FIRST: Our green leaves catch the raindrops  
That fall with soothing sound,  
Then drop them slowly, slowly down;  
'Tis better for the ground.

SECOND: When, rushing down the hillside,  
A mighty freshet foams,  
Our giant trunks and spreading roots  
Defend your happy homes.

THIRD: From burning heat in summer  
We offer cool retreat,  
Protect the land in winter's storm,  
From cold, and wind, and sleet.

FOURTH: Our falling leaves in autumn,  
By breezes turned and tossed,  
Will rake a deep sponge-carpet warm,  
Which saves the ground from frost.

FIFTH: We give you pulp for paper,  
Our fuel gives you heat;  
We furnish lumber for your homes,  
And nuts and fruit to eat.

SIXTH: With strong and graceful outline,  
With branches green and bare,  
We fill the land through all the year,  
With beauty everywhere.

ALL: So listen! From the forest  
Each one a message sends  
To children on this Arbor Day:  
"We trees are your best friends!"

- Primary Education

