

5. The boy and the Apple Tree

A long time ago, there was a huge apple tree. A little boy loved to play around it every day. He climbed to the treetop, ate apples, and napped under its shadow. The tree loved him.

As time passed, the boy grew up and stopped playing around the tree. One day, he returned. The tree asked him to play, but the boy said he needed money for toys. The tree offered its apples to sell, and the boy left happily. He didn't return for a long time.

Years later, the boy returned as a man. The tree asked him to play, but he needed a house instead. The tree offered its branches. The man cut all the branches and left. The tree was happy for him but felt lonely.

On a hot summer day, the man came back. The tree was happy and asked him to play. The man needed a boat to relax. The tree offered its trunk. The man cut the trunk and went sailing, not returning for a long time.

Finally, the man came back after many years. The tree said it had nothing left to give. The man, now old, said he only needed a place to rest. The tree, now just roots, invited him to rest.

Years went by, and the man often visited the tree. He would sit by the roots and tell the tree stories about his life. He talked about his children, work, and adventures. The tree loved to listen.

One day, the man brought his children to the tree. They played around it, just like he did when he was young. The tree was very happy to see new children playing and laughing.

As the man got older, he visited the tree less often. But every time he did, he felt **peaceful** and **happy**. The tree, now just roots, always welcomed him with love.

The tree's love and the man's gratitude showed a special bond. Even though the tree had nothing left to give, it still provided comfort.

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