

# A poem as lovely as a tree

Choose a tree in your school grounds. It might have leaves like one of these, or it might be different.



- What sounds does it make?



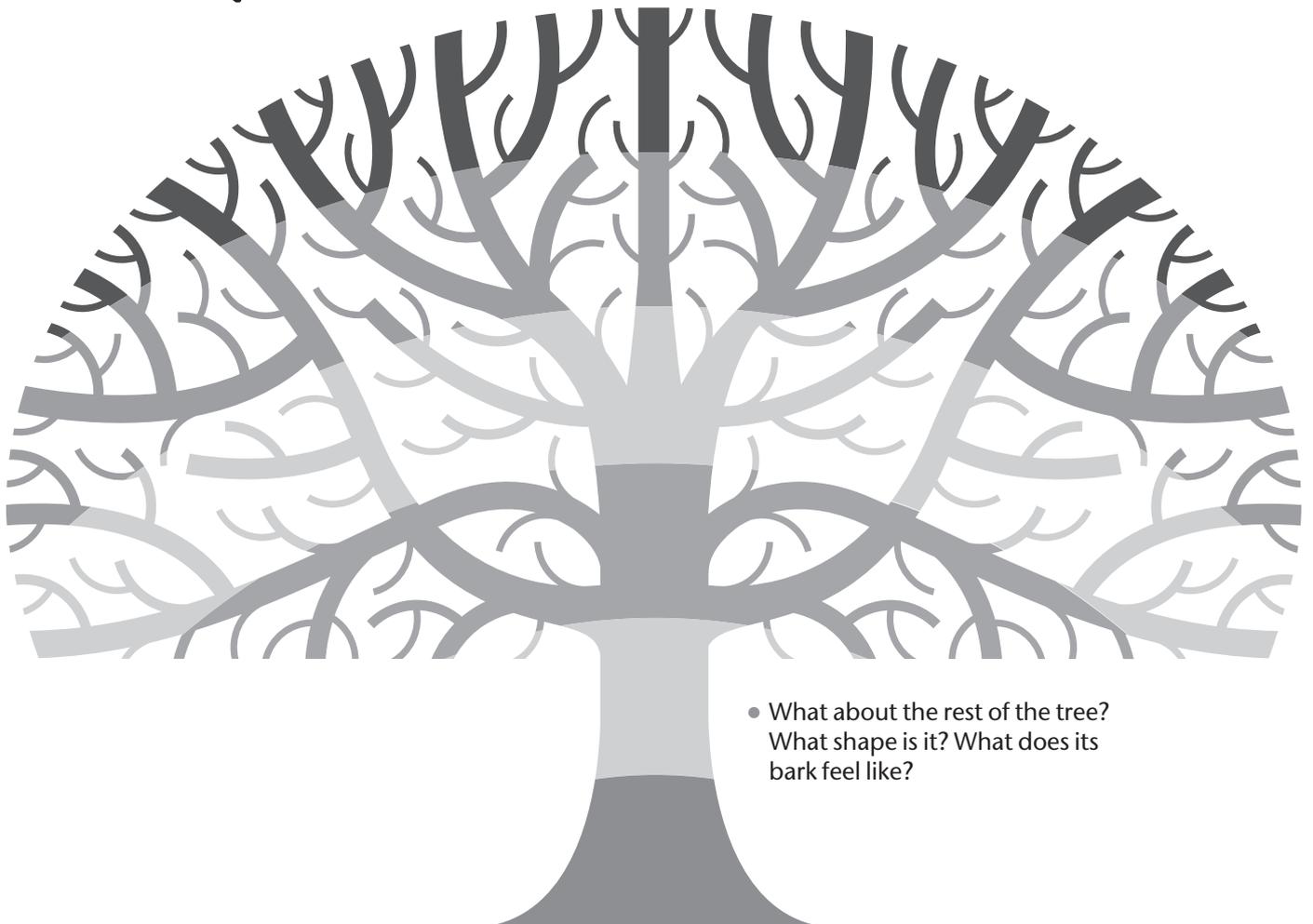
- What words describe the smell of the leaf?



- What does the leaf feel like?



- What words describe the shape of the leaf?



- What about the rest of the tree? What shape is it? What does its bark feel like?

### School grounds focus:

- Where are we now?
- Where do we want to be?
- How can we get there?
- Making the changes
- Using your grounds

### Curriculum focus:

- English and literacy.
- Creative development.
- Knowledge and understanding of the world.
- Link with other expressive arts, such as music or art.
- Link with science.

### Purpose of this activity:

- To use the senses to explore trees in the school grounds.
- To be creative and imaginative.
- To expand children's vocabulary of descriptive words.

### Equipment / materials needed:

- Copies of the activity sheet for each child.
- Clipboards are useful for working outdoors.

### Preparation:

- This activity is best done out in the school grounds, sitting among the trees. You might want to take out chairs, blankets or games mats to sit on.

### What to do:

- Children should choose a tree to study and use their senses to experience the tree as a whole. Stand close to the tree and look up, how tall is it? Can they stretch their arms around it? What does the trunk look, feel and smell like? Magnifying glasses can give a different perspective on the bark and bark rubbings help to experience the texture.
- They should collect a leaf from their tree which, in winter, could be a fallen leaf and then think about the questions over the page – either outdoors, or back in the classroom.
- You could play with made-up words to describe any characteristics that the children don't think are adequately covered by existing words.
- They could copy the shape of the leaf from their tree, and write inside the outline the words for each of the questions. These leaves could be collected into tree collages.

### Extension:

- Children can go on to write poems using the words they have written.
- Carrying out this activity at different times of the year, perhaps creating wall displays with contributions from different groups, allows an exploration of how trees change through the seasons, linking in with the science curriculum.

### Follow-up:

- This activity could be supported by reading other people's poems about trees.