

Story Review 1A

The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein Reviewed by Virginia Woo

Introduction:

What is the title?
Who is the author?
What kind of story is it and what do you think about it?

Summary:

What is the story about?

Personal reflection:

What do you like/dislike about this story? Why?

Critical analysis:

What is the author's purpose? What is the story's theme or message?

Conclusion:

Would you recommend this story to others?

The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein is one of the most beautiful stories I have ever read. It is a modern day parable about the relationship between a boy and a tree. I was moved by the tree's unconditional love for the boy.

At the beginning of the story, the boy plays with the tree every day. He climbs her trunk and swings from her branches, eats her apples and sleeps in her shade. The boy loves the tree very much, and the tree is happy. But as time goes by, the boy grows older and his needs change. The tree is often alone. When the boy visits the tree, he does not play with her. Instead, he makes requests to satisfy his needs. The tree gives the boy her apples to sell in the city, her branches to build a house and her trunk to build a boat. Every time the tree gives something to the boy, the tree is happy. At the end of the story, when the tree is just an old stump, she is still able to give the boy something that he needs.

I like the way the author wrote and illustrated this story. There are only two characters in the story, the boy and the tree, and it is told in a very simple style. The conversations between the boy and the tree are easy to follow because there is a lot of repetition. The author's illustrations are very attractive and add to the beauty of the story. Most of all, I like this story because of its meaningful message.

The Giving Tree is a story about unconditional love and giving with 'no strings attached'. The tree is happy whenever she gives something to the boy. She does not expect anything in return, other than the boy's companionship. In life, when we give something to someone, we often expect to get something in return. I think we can all learn to be more like the tree. We can learn to love those around us and give a part of ourselves to others with 'no strings attached'. The world would be a much better place if we could learn to be more like the tree.

If you like stories that teach us important lessons about life, you will love *The Giving Tree*. You will want to read it again and again and share it with others around you. I highly recommend this moving story about unconditional love and giving with 'no strings attached'.