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The Giving Tree

by Shel Silverstein
Once there was a tree who loved a little boy.

Everyday the little boy would come to play with the tree.
He would make crowns out of her leaves, swing from her branches, eat her apples and they would play hide and go seek. When the boy was tired, he would sleep in her shade.
The boy loved the tree very much, and the tree was happy.
Time went by and the boy grew older and did not play with the tree everyday.
One day the boy visited the tree and the tree wanted him to play with her. The boy said he was too big to play and wanted money to buy things. The tree told him to gather her apples and sell them for money.
The boy was gone for a long time, and the tree was sad. When the boy came back, the tree was happy.

The boy said, "I want a house. Can you give me a house?"
The tree said, "Cut off my branches and build a house." The boy cut off the branches and went away to build a house. The tree was happy.
The boy was gone for a long time. When the boy came back, the tree was happy. The boy said, "I am sad, and I want a boat to sail away in. Can you give me a boat?" The tree said, "Cut down my trunk and make a boat. Be happy."
The boy cut down the trunk and made a boat. The tree was sad.
The boy was gone for a long time. When the boy came back, the tree said, "I am sorry. I have nothing left to give you. I am just an old tree stump."
The boy said, "I am tired. I only need a place to sit and rest." The tree said, "A stump is good for resting. Come, sit down and rest." The boy sat down. The tree was happy.

The End
Object symbols can be incorporated throughout *The Giving Tree* in order to make the story more accessible and more interactive for students with severe disabilities. When reading *The Giving Tree*, consider incorporating the following object symbols that represent the key characters and key aspects of the story:

Piece of bark = tree

Piece of jean pants = boy

Leaves = playing with the tree

Play clock = time passing/boy getting older

Apples = apples from the tree

Piece of wood = house

Branches = branches cuts down

Piece of cloth = sail boat

Smaller piece of bark = stump