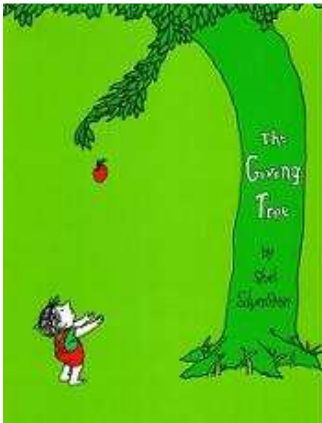


The First Book I Read



When I was 8, my grandmother had a stroke and was left with one side of her body paralyzed. She was bedridden for several weeks and started having difficulty with speech as well. We were very close to each other, and also because I was her neighbor I started visiting her every day.

Around this time, I began to discover the joy of reading. I do not remember if I was encouraged by her or by my desire to please her, but it was right there – at her bedside – that I read my first book: *The Giving Tree*.

Written by Shel Silverstein and translated by Fernando Sabino, the book tells a simple and fascinating story on the relationship between a boy and a tree. As the child grows up, the tree keeps generously meeting his needs: it gives him its leaves, allows him to rest in its shade, and gives him its fruit, branches, and so on.

In a supreme act of sacrifice, the tree allowed itself to be cut, and the boy used its wood to build a boat and travel the world. He went away searching for adventure, and all that remained of the tree was a small trunk.

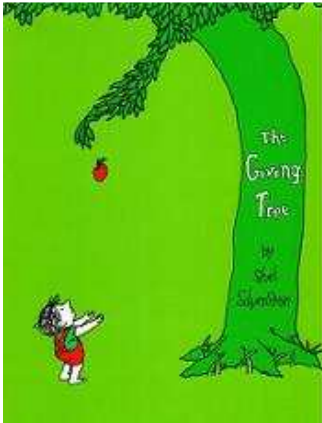
Decades later, the boy returns as an aged man, and the tree says, "I have nothing else to give you." He replies: "I do not need so much now, just a place to rest."

The tree is filled with joy by the opportunity to serve him again and says, "Good! A tree stump is a great place to do just that! Come boy, sit down and be happy."

And that was what the boy did... And the tree was happy again. 😊

At each visit, she asked me to read the same story again, which made me realize – even as a boy – the power literature has to bring people together, and to turn some moments unto unforgettable memories...

O Primeiro Livro Que Li



Quando eu tinha 8 anos, minha avó sofreu um derrame e ficou com um lado do corpo paralisado. Ela ficou de cama por algumas semanas, e passou a ter dificuldades na fala. Éramos bem chegados, e como éramos vizinhos, eu a visitava todos os dias.

Nessa mesma época, comecei a descobrir as alegrias da leitura. Não me recordo bem se fui incentivado por ela ou por meu desejo em agradá-la,

mas foi justamente ali – à cabeceira de sua cama – que li meu primeiro livro: A Árvore Generosa.

Escrito por Shel Silverstein e traduzido por Fernando Sabino, o livro conta uma história simples e fascinante sobre o relacionamento entre um menino e uma árvore. À medida que o menino cresce, a árvore vai atendendo generosamente suas necessidades: cede suas folhas, empresta sua sombra, doa seus frutos, galhos, e assim por diante.

Num supremo ato de sacrifício, a árvore permite ser cortada, e o menino constrói um barco para viajar pelo mundo. Ele parte em busca de aventuras, e tudo o que resta da árvore é um tronco.

Décadas mais tarde, o menino retorna já idoso, e a árvore diz: “Não tenho mais nada para te oferecer.” Ele responde: “Não preciso de muito agora, apenas de um lugar pra descansar.”

A árvore enche-se de alegria pela oportunidade de servir novamente ao menino, e diz: “Pois bem... eu sou apenas um toco... mas um toco é útil para sentar e descansar... Venha menino, depressa, sente-se e descanse.”

Foi o que o menino fez. E a árvore ficou feliz. ☺

A cada visita, minha avó pedia-me que lesse de novo a mesma história, o que me fez perceber – ainda menino – que a literatura tem o poder de aproximar as pessoas, e de tornar alguns momentos inesquecíveis...

I – Let's talk about it!

1. Which is your favorite book?
2. When did you read your first book?
3. What was the book about?
4. Do you like reading for children?
5. Would you like to read 'The Giving Tree'?
6. How many books do you usually read per year?
7. Which book would you like to read again?

II – Number the paragraphs according to the story:

_____ The tree then says, "Good! A tree stump is a great place to do just that! Come boy, sit down and be happy." The boy obliged and the tree was happy.

_____ *The Giving Tree* is a tale about a relationship between a young boy and a tree in a forest.

_____ In the ultimate act of self-sacrifice, the tree lets the boy cut her down so the boy can build a boat in which he can sail. The boy leaves the tree, now a stump.

_____ The tree always provides the boy with what he wants: branches on which to swing, shade in which to sit, apples to eat, branches with which to build a home.

_____ Many years later, the boy, now an old man, returns and the tree says, "I have nothing left to give you." The boy replies, " I do not need much now, just a quiet place to sit and rest."

_____ As the boy grows older he requires more and more of the tree. The tree loves the boy very much and gives him anything he asks for.

Shel Silverstein www.shelsilverstein.com (English)

Fernando Sabino: http://www.releituras.com/fsabino_bio.asp (Português)