

Who Lives in A Tree?

Directions: Read the "Tall Oak Tree" poem aloud. You may choose to use a felt tree and figures and a flannel board to illustrate each stanza as you read it, or you may opt to have children invent motions and act out the story. You may reduce the number of stanzas for very young children, or focus on one or a few at a time.

Tall Oak Tree

All is dark and quiet
In Tall Oak Tree at night
See a spider spin her web
In the pale moonlight

A moth flutters near
Drinking nectar in the dark.
He lands on Tree and disappears!
He looks just like the bark.

A bat swoops and zooms
Wow, what a stunt!
Flying bugs should be aware
Bat is on the hunt!

Tree frog breaks the silence
With his throaty call
High in Tree's top branches
Sticky feet won't let him fall

Moth flies up into the night
But gets caught in spider's web
She wraps him up carefully
With her silken spider thread

The sky is getting lighter now
The tree frog stops his song
Nighttime creatures coming home
Daytime won't be long

The morning sun is rising
And dove begins to sing
Coo...ooo...ooo...ooo
And stretches out her wings

She preens her feathers
Flaps her wings and leaves her cozy nest
She'll search for seeds all day long
Coming back to Tree to rest

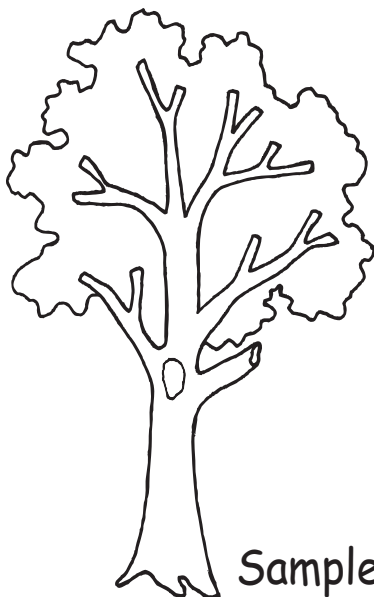
Squirrel wakes up and looks around
Breakfast on his mind
He climbs among Tree's branches
Eating every nut he finds

Rat-a-tat-tat goes woodpecker
On a broken limb that died
She drills a hole to catch the bugs
From her they cannot hide

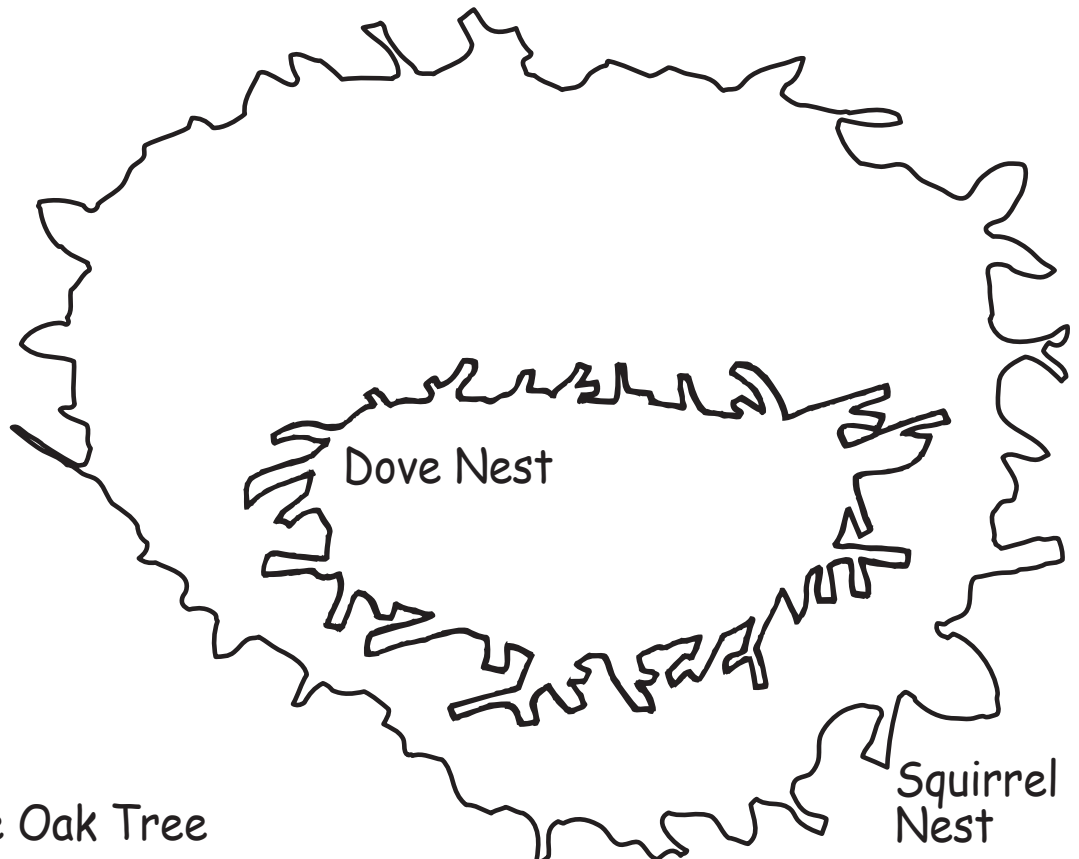
A snake is climbing up the tree
Looking for a nest
He likes to eat many things
But birds' eggs are the best

Caterpillar crawls along
Munching every leaf in sight
When she hatches from her chrysalis
She'll be ready to take flight

Tall Oak Tree is a home
For animals big and small
The tree gives food to some
And provides shelter for them all



Sample Oak Tree



Directions: Cut a large tree (similar to the one shown below left) from felt. Use green felt for the leafy top and brown for the trunk and branches. Then create the figures below. There are a number of methods for creating figures for use with a flannel board. One is to trace and cut the figures directly from felt of different colors. Another method is to copy the figures onto card stock, color if desired, then laminate. Attach felt or Velcro to the back of each figure using double-sided tape.

