

Teacher instructions: Read this passage aloud to your learner.

THE LITTLE CHRISTMAS TREE

Three fir trees once lived on a hill. One tree was tall and beautiful, with wide-spreading branches; one tree was not so tall, but it was growing bigger every day; one was a little tree, but it hoped that some day it would be as tall as its biggest brother.

Summer had passed and all the maple trees and oak trees and birch trees had lost their leaves long ago. One day the snow began to come down upon the three trees and soon it covered the ground. "Christmas is coming!" said the trees. "We want to be Christmas trees! Santa Claus will soon come and take us away. It will be great fun!"

By and by a little bird came hopping along over the snow. The little bird was lost and could not find his mother. Poor little bird! He was so cold and weak that he could not fly, but he hopped along until he came to the big fir tree. "Are you a kind tree?" he asked. "May I sit in your branches? The snow is so cold!" The big tree said, "No, not Little Bird. I don't want birds in my branches. I am going to be a Christmas tree!" And it drew its branches away from the poor little bird.

"How cold I am," said the bird to himself. "I wish I could find a kind tree! It would keep me warm." He went on up the hill. Soon he came to the next fir tree. "Are you a kind tree?" he asked. "May I sit in your branches? The snow is so cold! I am lost, dear Tree, and I cannot find my mother." Now this tree was not kind, either. It was just like the first tree. So it said, "No, Little Bird, no! I don't want birds in my branches. I am going to be a Christmas Tree!"

So the little bird went on up the hill. Soon he came to the little fir tree. He was almost afraid to ask again, but he knew that night would come by and by, and that he must find a warm place to stay. So he said, very softly, "Little Tree, I am lost. May I sit in your warm branches? The snow is so cold!" Now the little fir tree was kind. It was not like the other fir trees. So it said, "Oh, yes, dear Bird! You may sit in my branches. I shall be glad to have you here."

How happy the little bird was! The little fir tree was happy, too; it stood straight up, trying its best to keep the wind off the little bird. By and by the bird heard something—he heard the sound of silvery bells. A sleigh was coming up the hill—a sleigh drawn by a reindeer! It came nearer and nearer. It did not stop at the big fir tree; it did not stop at the next fir tree; on it went until it came to the little tree, and then the reindeer stopped. "It has come to us!" said the bird.

Listen.

Lesson 41



Teacher instructions: Read this passage aloud to your learner.

Out jumped a man, with long white whiskers. Can you guess who he was? "What a pretty tree!" he said. "I want it for a Christmas tree!" So he took the little fir tree with him in the sleigh. He took the little bird, too. "I will take you to Patty," he said to the bird. "She will keep you warm." Away they all flew over the snow in the sleigh drawn by the reindeer.

How happy the little bird was! How happy the little tree was, too! For the silvery bells kept ringing and ringing—and they seemed to say, "You are going to be a Christmas tree, kind little fir, you are going to be a Christmas tree!"

—MARY McDOWELL.

Discuss.



Lesson 41



Teacher instructions: Discuss the illustration and the passage with your learner.



What do you see in the illustration?

What do you remember from the story you just listened to? Tell me the story using your own words.

Read.



Lesson 41



Read this silently and then out loud.

Summer had passed and all the maple trees and oak trees and birch trees had lost their leaves long ago. One day the snow began to come down upon the three trees and soon it covered the ground.

"Christmas is coming!" said the trees. "We want to be Christmas trees!"

Write.



Lesson 41



Copy the passage.

“What a pretty tree!” he said. “I
want it for a Christmas tree!”

So he took the little fir tree with
him in the sleigh.

Handwriting practice lines consisting of solid top and bottom lines with a dashed midline.

Write.



Lesson 41

end



Use the illustration as inspiration to write a sentence.



Four sets of horizontal lines for writing, each consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.