

## THE SELFISH LITTLE TREE

By DOLORES PINEDA



THERE was once a selfish little tree which lived in the great woods. Many fine trees grew near it.

One day a man came walking into the woods.

"Oh, kind man," said the selfish little tree, "come and cut down all these other trees."

"Why do you want me to cut down all the other trees?" asked the man.

"Because they are so big," said the selfish little tree. "I want more room. I want to see the sun. I want to grow tall and big. I should like to be the tallest tree in the woods."

So the man cut down all the other trees. The little tree now stood all alone.

"How happy I shall be!" said the selfish little tree. "Now I can have all the room I want."

But the next day the sun came out, and it was very hot. There were no kind trees to give cool shade.

"I am so hot and thirsty," said the selfish tree.

Then the cruel strong wind began to blow. Then there were no kind trees to keep the wind away.

"I am afraid," said the selfish little tree. "I wish the kind big trees were here beside me. What am I to do?"

Just then the strong wind blew again. It blew, and it blew, and it blew, and at last it broke the selfish tree in two.

"Snap!" it went.

"What a foolish tree!" said all the birds.

"Now you will be sorry you asked the man to cut down all the big trees. They were your best friends. They hid you from the hot sun. They kept the strong wind away from you."

"Oh, what a foolish, selfish little tree!"

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### SOME QUESTIONS

1. What is a selfish person?
2. What did the selfish little tree ask the man to do?
3. Why did the little tree want the other trees cut down?
4. Why was the little tree foolish?
5. Are you ever selfish?