

The Oak Tree

Grades 3-4

The Oak Tree

For the past several years, I would visit with a neighbor often, during the summers, on their farm. Very often they would invite friends and families to join together for a picnic under their oak tree. I was told the oak tree is 60 feet tall and 60 feet wide and provided a nice shade for outdoor gatherings. There was a nice swing hanging from the oak tree branch and us kids, and some parents, really enjoyed swinging, it was so relaxing. The food dishes that was prepared and shared by everyone tasted so good. We all were happy to try new and different food, of course the watermelon and desserts were the favorite. The area was set up to spend most of the day playing crochet, horseshoes, cornhole toss, and volleyball. Some would bring their balls and gloves to practice throwing and catching. The oak tree made it very nice to just be there.

The oak tree was planted in 1941 by the neighbor's mother. Because of the size and long life, oaks are a symbol of "honor, nobility, and wisdom". The oak tree is approximately eighty years old now and it is every ones favorite place to gather for picnics and to spend time together. The branches of leaves are thick and beautiful and on a hot summer day you can depend on the cool shade it gives you.

During the late autumn months the leaves turn shades of orange, red, yellow, the colors are so pretty you visit it as often as you can. Always planning another picnic before the weather gets too cold.

Acorns from the oak tree provide a food supply to a variety of animals and birds. Blue jays and woodpeckers stock pile for winter food. The mice, wild turkeys, raccoons, black bears and squirrels all eat the acorns. I have watched the squirrels gather a mouthful and scamper away.

I will always look forward to joining friends under the oak tree each summer reconnecting, sharing our food and becoming more experienced with our games. I like bringing a large container of water and squirt guns. Whatever we plan to do is great as long as we have it at our favorite place under the oak tree.