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ENG 1101

Poem Essay

“Love is an unconditional commitment to an imperfect person. It is a decision, a

judgment and a promise.” To love is to create an attachment to someone and no matter what

happen you will not give that person up, but sometimes love can blind us. The poem “The

Giving Tree” by Shel Silverstein shows how love is a roller coaster of emotions filled with

happiness, sadness, and forgiveness.

Sometimes in a relationship one can ask for too much, but as long as the one you love is

happy you are happy. In the poem “ The Giving Tree” , the tree is sort of like a provider for the

little boy. The boy always gets what he wants from the tree such as, when the boy ask for money

the tree gave him apples to sell for money. When the boy ask for a house the tree gave him her

trunk to build a house. The boy kept coming back for more until the tree had nothing left to give

him, but the tree remained happy because she felt like she had made the boy happy.

Often when we are in love we have insecure and sad moments. In the poem, the boy

came to talk to the tree only when he was in need of something. This made the tree really sad

because she wasn't feeling love back from the boy. After giving away her trunk the poem stated

“And the tree was happy… but not really” showing a mixed emotion by the tree. One part of her

feeling happiness and the other sadness because she had just given everything away to the boy.

Although the boy never returned the favor to the tree, she still forgave him everytime he

came to visit and continue to give him until she had nothing left. The poem concluded with

“ Oh, the tree was happy. Oh, the tree was glad” showing that the tree has returned to the state of

happiness because she had forgiven the boy and still loves him. The tree never expected

anything in return from the boy and when he returned to her; Old and sad, they just sat there and

enjoyed each others company.

All in all, this poem shows the mixed feelings of love by providing happiness, sadness

and forgiveness. These emotions were portrayed by a boy who ask for everything from a tree

and the tree giving everything to a boy because of love.