

Title: <i>The Night Gardener</i>	Author: The Fan Brothers
Genre/Unit: Narrative	Shared Reading: <i>Poet's Tree</i>

Objective: Students will be able to identify the theme of working together and the perseverance gardening requires.

Standards: NYS Reading Anchor Standards 1, 2 and 4.

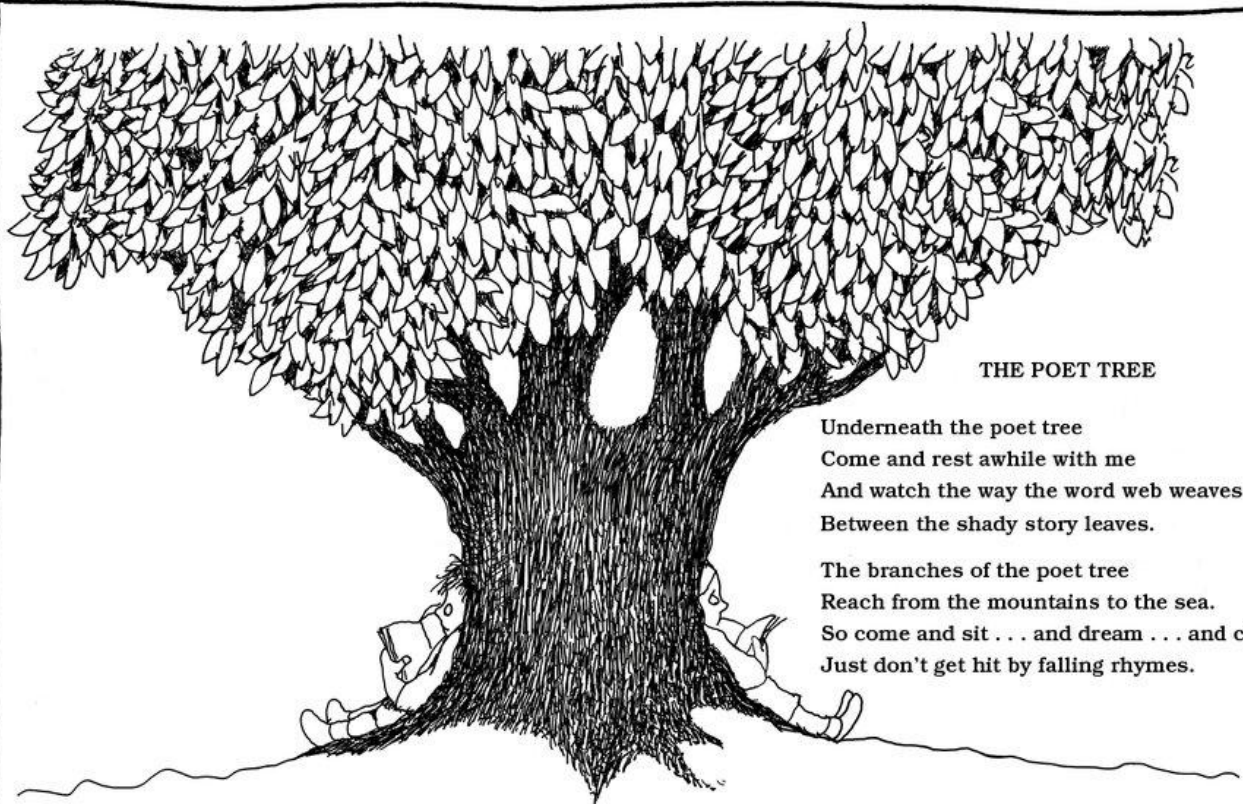
Knowledge Building: Topiary is the art of creating sculptures by clipping trees and bushes. Special scissors are used and a steady patient hand is needed.

Video of Pearl Fryar's world-renowned topiary garden of rescued plants in South Carolina:
<https://thekidshouldseethis.com/post/pearl-fryars-world-renowned-topiary-garden-of-rescued-plants>

Vocabulary

Word	Page	Student Friendly Definition
commotion	3	a noisy confusion, disorder
wise	5	really smart
disappointed	9	unhappy because what one hoped for didn't happen
dashed	14	in a hurry
magnificent masterpiece	16	very grand in size, full of beauty a work of art of the highest level
admire	28	to look at with wonder and approval, respect

Warm Up Poem:



THE POET TREE

Underneath the poet tree
Come and rest awhile with me
And watch the way the word web weaves
Between the shady story leaves.

The branches of the poet tree
Reach from the mountains to the sea.
So come and sit . . . and dream . . . and climb—
Just don't get hit by falling rhymes.

Read more poems in *Falling Up Special Edition* by Shel Silverstein!

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Reading:

Page #	Accountable Talk	JOYcabulary
Before Reading	Rev up mind: What do we expect? Look at cover, back blurb, inside flap (grim)lock-horrible, frightening magical- charming	Activate background knowledge about topiary gardens. See video above.
Dedication Page	Look closely at the illustrations of the boy and elder man. What is the mood? Predict the characters feelings.	Lift the level of emotions from happy to elated and sad to blue.
Title page	Review how the illustration and setting set up tension for the story. Why did he choose to start in front of Grimloch Orphanage?	Spring is the season of rebirth and renewal. Will this story be dark and gloomy? Or will it be hopeful and rejuvenating?

<p>During Reading P 2-3</p>	<p>Pay attention to the illustrations of the boy throughout the text. We will ask ourselves: How will William's and the Night Gardener's emotions lead to the theme or message of the story?</p>	<p>What are some words we could use to describe the emotions of the boy and the Night Gardener? Let's start charting a list.</p>
<p>P 9</p>	<p>Notice the author/illustrator showing not telling the boy's feelings. Use the text and the pictures to share William's emotions.</p>	<p>The importance of word choice (wise, wonder, sense of excitement, not disappointed,</p>
<p>P 13</p>	<p>"Something was happening on Grimloch Lane. Something good." Explain using the word topiary and feeling words from the charting above.</p>	<p>sentence stem: The topiaries are _____.</p>
<p>P 20-21</p>	<p>The boy spots someone <u>unfamiliar</u>. Why is he following behind and trying not to be seen? Begin to think and notice what character traits might we use to describe the man?</p>	<p>unfamiliar- strange, not known</p>
<p>P 23-25</p>	<p>Turning point: The boy meets the Night Gardener. <i>"I could use a little help."</i> What might this mean about the Night Gardener?</p>	<p>Possible character traits: hard worker, wise, caring, generous, cooperative, etc...</p>
<p>P 30-35</p>	<p>Time structure: seasons of Grimloch Park What happens the following spring to the people and town? Why will they never be the same?</p>	<p>Take notice of the mood of each season and the presence of William in each.</p>
<p>P 37</p>	<p>Is this William's first true smile? How did the character grow and change? Theme Work: What do the Fan Brothers want their readers to learn and take away into their own lives?</p>	<p>Common Themes anchor chart from previous read alouds.</p>

After Reading

Extensions:

Writing: ellipses, alliteration, character traits, magic 3 (“quickly dressed, ran downstairs, raced out the door”)

Reading: Theme work connected with feeling words (wonder, excitement, disappointed, friendly, playful). What is this book teaching us about our own lives?

Teach the difference between tone and mood with kid friendly definitions. Discuss the mood in the beginning, middle and end of *The Night Gardener*.

Vocabulary: Create a word ladder for words with emotions. (Ex. ecstatic, excited, content, blue, disappointed, miserable)

Games: Create some *Would You Rather* scenarios for spring weather – Ex: *Would you rather plant flowers or vegetables? Would you rather play in the dirt or play in the rain?*

Next Steps:

Read an informational book about gardening, such as *Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt* – Kate Messner

(Find complete lesson plan on joycabulary.com)

- Amanda

