

If All the Trees Were Oaks

Author Unknown

What if all the trees were oaks,
How plain the world would seem:
No maple syrup, banana splits,
And how would orange juice be?

Wouldn't it be a boring place,
If all the people were the same:
just one color, just one language,
Just one family name!

-But-

If the forest were the world,
And all the people were the trees;
Palm and pine, bamboo an willow,
Live and grow in harmony.

Aren't you glad, my good friend,
Different though we be;
We are here to help each other,
I learn from you, and you from me.

Words or Phrases:

- Words from the text like "maple syrup," banana splits," and "orange juice" represent the text because they show what we would lose if all trees were the same.

Tone or Language:

- The overall tone of the text is thoughtful and questioning. I know this because the narrator thinks about how the world would be different if we were all the same.

Craft Elements:

- The author uses metaphor and symbolism to help the reader understand how the world is a better place because of our differences. The trees represent all of us.

Structure:

- The author organizes the text in four four-line stanzas. The first stanza shows what would be lost if all trees were the same; the second points out how boring it would be if all people were the same. But...we're lucky it's not that way. The third introduces the relationship between the world and the forest, and the fourth points out how much we as people all benefit from our differences.

Theme: (Use the sentence Starters to explain.)

The Theme of this text is about how much we should value our differences.