



## Writing PoeTREE!

Celebrate a favorite tree by writing about it! Here's a simple way to make your own simile poem.

1. Go outside and find a tree.
2. Take time to explore the tree using your senses of sight, smell, hearing, and touch.
3. Think of three to eight similes that describe your tree.

A simile (si-muh-lee) is when you use the words "like" or "as" to compare one thing to something else:

tiny as a baby ant  
cold like an ice cream factory  
yellow as 10,000 lemon drops

To make your poem feel fresh, try to stay away from similes that you've heard before. The strongest similes are often ones that you've created with your own imagination:

"fast as a cheetah" vs. "fast as a nuclear-powered skateboard"

4. Choose a title. It might be the name of the tree.
5. End your poem with a phrase about where the tree is located, how the tree makes you feel, or any other aspect of your tree.

Ta-da! You've become a poeTREE maker!

Here's an example:



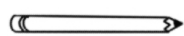
Title: Pine Tree



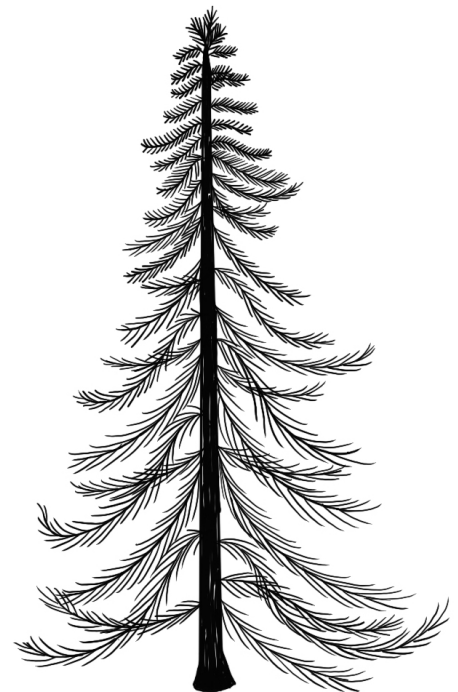
Similes: Prickly as a box of toothpicks  
Tall as a giant's swing set  
Pinecones that hang like Christmas ornaments  
Bark as sticky as my baby brother's hands  
Branches that smell like camping in the mountains  
Swishing sounds as soft as a secret



Ending line: King of my backyard



Now it's YOUR turn to be a tree poet!



How to Draw a Tree  
Text Copyright © 2025 by David LaRochelle  
Illustrations Copyright © 2025 by Colleen Muske  
Reproduced by permission of the publisher,  
Minnesota Historical Society Press, St. Paul, MN [mnhpress.org](http://mnhpress.org)