



The Tree and Me

(From *Stories for Children*)

“Once I was small and not very strong,” said the Tree.

“Just like me!” said Jonathan.

“Then I pushed my roots deep in the soft brown earth so the wind wouldn’t blow me down,” said the Tree.

“Just like me!” cried Jonathan excitedly. “I learnt to put my feet on the ground and walk without falling down.”

“Then I grew tall and stretched out my arms and a little green leaf appeared on my boughs,” said the Tree.

“Just like me!” shouted Jonathan happily. “My arms grew strong and I used my hands and the work that I did was good, like your little green leaf.”

“Then many leaves grew, which made a shelter for the squirrels and a home for the birds,” said the Tree.

“Just like me?” asked Jonathan anxiously. “When I helped a hurt dog and was kind to people?”

“I grew tall and strong and what did I see? I saw the whole world and the world saw me,” said the Tree.

“Just like me,” said Jonathan quietly. “When I’m big, I’ll be good, you will see. I’ll love the whole world and then the world will love me.”