

## Why Evergreen Trees Keep Their Leaves

1 Once upon a time, a little bird had a broken wing. He couldn't fly up to his warm nest. He looked around for a warm place to stay.

2 "Maybe the trees will keep me warm," he said. A silver birch was the first tree he saw.

3 "Birch tree," said the bird, "will you keep me warm?"

4 "I must take care of my leaves. Go away!" said the birch.

5 The little bird hopped and fluttered until he came to an oak tree.

6 "Oak tree," said the bird, "will you keep me warm?"

7 "You'll eat my acorns. Go away!" said the oak.

8 Once again, the little bird hopped and fluttered until he came to a willow tree.

9 "Willow tree," said the bird, "will you keep me warm?"

10 "I don't know you, and I never talk to strangers. Go away!" said the willow.

11 The little bird hopped and fluttered until a spruce tree saw him.

12 "Where are you going, little bird?" asked the spruce.

13 "I don't know," answered the bird. "Those trees won't help me! My wing is broken so I can't fly very far."

14 "I will keep you warm," said the spruce. "I'll like having you here."

15 A pine tree stood nearby. “My branches are not very warm, but I can block the wind.”

16 The little bird fluttered up into the branches of the spruce, and the pine tree kept the wind away from the little bird. Then the juniper tree offered to feed the bird.

17 “My berries are good for birds,” said the juniper.

18 The little bird was soon very comfortable.

19 The other trees talked to one another.

20 “I wouldn’t take care of a bird,” said the birch.

21 “I wouldn’t risk my acorns,” said the oak.

22 “I wouldn’t speak to strangers,” said the willow.

23 That night, North Wind came to the woods. He blew his icy breath on some of the trees. All the leaves fell to the ground.

24 “May I touch every tree?” North Wind asked the Frost King.

25 “No,” said the Frost King. “These evergreen trees should keep their leaves. They use them to help others.”

26 So, the spruce, the pine, and the juniper kept their leaves through the winter—and have done so ever since.



## 2.3B (Vocabulary—Context) M

1. What does the word strangers mean in paragraph 10?
- A Those who visit the willow
  - B Those the willow does not know
  - C Those who bother the willow
  - D Those who are mean to the willow

## 2.3D (Vocabulary—Word Relationships) M

2. Which word means almost the same as block in paragraph 15?
- A Allow
  - B Open
  - C Hurt
  - D Stop

## 2.7C (Response—Text Evidence) L

3. Which tree says it cannot help because it must take care of its leaves?
- A Oak
  - B Birch
  - C Willow
  - D Spruce

## 2.7C (Response—Text Evidence) M

4. The little bird needs a warm place to stay because he—
- A does not get along with the trees
  - B has not had enough food
  - C cannot fly up to his nest
  - D does not have a nest

## 2.8B (Literary—Character Traits) M

5. In this story, the oak, birch, and willow trees are—
- A selfish
  - B angry
  - C friendly
  - D careless

## 2.6F (Comprehension—Inferences) M

6. The Frost King told North Wind not to touch the spruce, pine, and juniper trees because they—
- A have been kind to the little bird
  - B do not have acorns or leaves
  - C have too many nests in them
  - D never lose their leaves

2.8B (Literary—Character Traits) L

7. Read the chart below. It shows something about different trees in the story.

Spruce	Keeps the bird warm
Pine	Blocks the wind for the bird
Juniper	

Which one belongs in the empty box?

- A Fixes the bird's wing
- B Sings to the bird
- C Gives food to the bird
- D Gives a nest to the bird

2.8A (Literary—Theme) H

8. What lesson can the reader learn from this story?

- A Never give up.
- B Look on the bright side.
- C Kindness always pays.
- D Don't talk to strangers.