

Child's song in spring

The silver birch is a dainty lady,
She wears a satin gown;
The elm tree makes the old churchyard shady,
She will not live in town.
The English oak is a sturdy fellow,
He gets his green coat late;
The willow is smart in a suit of yellow,
While brown the beech trees wait.
Such a gay green gown God gives the larches –
As green as He is good!
The hazels hold up their arms for arches,
When Spring rides through the wood.
The chestnut's proud and the lilac's pretty,
The poplar's gentle and tall,
But the plane tree's kind to the poor dull city –
I love him best of all!

By Edith Nesbit

Task

1. Read the poem with an adult and talk about it. Can you spot some patterns? For example, which lines of the poem rhyme?
2. Look at the highlighted words and check the definitions, see below. Are there any other words in the poem which you need to check the meaning of? If so, use the internet to search for the meaning and add to the table (or write in your book).

word	definition/meaning
dainty	delicate, small and pretty
satin	a smooth, shiny fabric
sturdy	strong and solidly built
gay	brightly coloured; showy
dull	without interest or excitement

3. Read the poem again and perform it to an adult.