

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

RIC

1. Retrieval: How many trees are referred to in the poem?

eight

nine

ten

eleven

2. Retrieval: Which tree is the poet's favourite?

3. Interpret: Which tree is the strongest? How do you know?

4. Interpret: Which tree is described as being delicate?

5. Choice: Do you think the poet has chosen vocabulary to describe the trees in a positive or a negative way? Give examples from the text to back up your answer.