February 18 is Arbor Day in Georgia... a good time to think about planting a beautiful, little tree in your neighborhood.

If you plant a tree this year and care for it, it will grow and do wonderful things in return!
I Planted a Tree, Just For Me!
(A Tree Poem)

I planted such a little tree
When I was very small.
In just one year it outgrew me
And kept on growing tall!

Soon it reached toward the sky
With green leaves everywhere,
Beneath it in the shade I'd lie
And breathe the clean, fresh air.

Lizards, spiders, snails and slugs
Lived upon the bark
Birds would dine on tiny bugs
From morning until dark.
When fall leaves turned
to orange and gold
The squirrels worked
extra hard.
Their nest of leaves
kept out the cold
when snow fell on my yard.

The tree brought wildlife
to my street
And shade, and clean, fresh air.
It cooled me in the summer heat
So I gave it special care.

I watered it when weeks were dry
And never allowed a nail.
No one ever asked me why
I protected it without fail.
As years went by, my tree grew tall
And strong as strong can be.
My tree was loved by one and all,
But especially by me.

When I felt mad, alone or down
I’d hide up in my tree.
I’d climb way up and look around
As far as I could see.

Now that I’ve grown and moved away
I still love my tall, strong friend.
Other kids play beneath it today
Chasing leaves in the wind.

And all because I planted a seed
When I was just a kid.
How proud I am of that good deed.
It’s the best one I ever did!
Find the names of these leaves.
1. Draw a line from the → to the * in each. Take the shortest path. Do not cross lines.
2. Write the letters you pass over in order in the blanks below.

Choose a tree in your yard at home or at your school.

Write a poem about the tree.

Make a drawing to illustrate your poem.
Color Smokey and join Fernbank in wishing this famous tree protector a very happy birthday!

1944 — HAPPY BIRTHDAY SMOKEY — 1994

Primarily for US* was written and illustrated by Judy Cutchins.

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