Description:
Trees play an important role in our lives throughout the seasons, offering beauty, shade, and many heartwarming memories. If you have a special connection to a tree, or a tree that has a significant meaning to you, share it with others! The Tree-mendous Tree Stories is a website from The Morton Arboretum and Openlands highlighting Chicago-area residents’ unique connection to trees with a curated collection of stories. Learn more about this initiative at mortonarb.org/visit-explore/activities-and-exhibits/tree-mendous-tree-stories

Standards:
• **W.3**: Write narratives to develop real experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.
• **W.6**: Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing as well as to interact and collaborate with others.
• **L.2**: Demonstrate command of the conventions of standards English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

Learning Goal:
Students will be able to recall experiences and write a narrative based on a special connection with a tree while demonstrating proper capitalization, spelling, and conventions.

Core Questions:
• Why are trees important to people and places?
• Can you tell me about a tree in your life? Is it special to you? Why?
• What would your world be like without trees?

Mini-lesson:
Review the role trees play in the world; how they benefit humans. Have the students brainstorm about a real-experience they’ve had with a tree. Explain/review the organizational format of writing an effective narrative. Have the students peer-edit using a copy of the rubric as a guide.

Extension:
• **Informational Reading, Science, & Research**: Have students research the type of tree in their story to identify it and learn about its needs for survival.
• **Science & Art**: Have the students illustrate the structure of a plant cell and describe the process of photosynthesis.
• **Writing**: Have the students write a persuasive letter to their local newspaper or government to plant more trees around their home or school, based on facts from research.
• **Research & Math**: Determine the value of local trees with this project: https://www.mortonarb.org/files/The%20Value%20of%20a%20Tree.pdf

Technology:
Have students post their story on The Morton Arboretum Tree-mendous Tree Stories website at tree-stories.org/node/add/tree-story.
**TREE-MENDOUS TREE STORY RUBRIC**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>W.3</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>6</th>
<th><strong>SCORE</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.</strong></td>
<td>The student exceeds writing a tree story based on a real experience in narrative form. There is a clear, effective, and relevant introduction and conclusion. Precise words, details, sensory details, dialogue, and figurative language are used effectively to help the plot, develop characters/experiences, and build toward a particular tone.</td>
<td>The student progresses writing a tree story based on a real experience in narrative form. There is a relevant introduction and conclusion. Precise words, details, sensory details, dialogue, and figurative language somewhat move the plot, develop characters/experiences, and build toward a particular tone, but at times are unclear or underdeveloped.</td>
<td>The student struggles writing a tree story based on a real experience in narrative form. There is a relevant introduction and conclusion. Precise words, details, sensory details, dialogue, and figurative language are missing or unclear. Precise words, details, sensory details, dialogue, and figurative language are missing and/or hinder the development of characters/experiences and tone.</td>
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<td>W.6</td>
<td>Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing as well as to interact and collaborate with others.</td>
<td>The student exceeds in producing and publishing their writing online. They update their writing in response to ongoing feedback regularly.</td>
<td>The student progresses in producing and publishing their writing online. They updated their writing in response to peer feedback at least once.</td>
<td>The student struggles in producing and publishing their writing independently OR they did not produce and publish their writing OR did not update their writing in response to peer feedback.</td>
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<td>L.2</td>
<td>Demonstrate command of the conventions of standards English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.</td>
<td>The student exceeds in showing command of capitalization, punctuation, and spelling having 0 errors overall.</td>
<td>The student progresses in showing command of capitalization, punctuation, and spelling having 1-5 errors overall.</td>
<td>The student struggles in showing command of capitalization, punctuation, and spelling, having more than 5 errors overall.</td>
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**SCORE:** _______/30 = _______________________

**NOTES:**