

# The Acorn



Just for Kids...  
(of all ages)

## Talking to the Trees

With weather that allows for more - or at least, more comfortable - outdoor time, you may find yourself spending time in places where the trees live, & we are only the sometime visitors. I notice when we have COSO at the parks, how many of us (young & old alike!) end up at some point wandering away from the pavilion & the people & find ourselves drawn into the more wooded areas. Some may be following the whispered songs & stories of the trees there...while others find what the need in the stillness.

When I first "formally" knew I was a Pagan (kind of cool to have a name for being very different in the way I saw things), I lived in a house that had a long hillside of a back yard that led down into the woods. Most of my circles were just me & the trees, sometimes with my dog standing as guardian. I did my self-dedication at the base of a tall, strong evergreen tree - very much like the one I played under when I was very small. Its long, soft needles that draped into the shape of walls with shadows brushing the places where the sunlight would trickle through in the afternoon & early evening - it was my space, safe & peaceful, & very separate from the world outside. When I was older, as a teenager, I would climb

### In This Issue:

Tree Talk	1
Kidspirations	3
Tree Meanings	4
The Fox's Den	4

another tree, this one maple, with a book in hand, & lay up in the branches, reading for hours, until it got too dark to see the pages. As an adult - I still find myself easily lost in the world




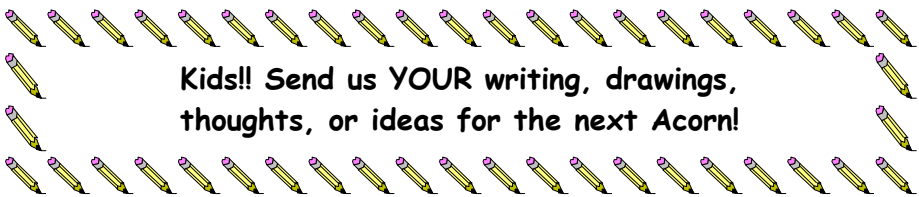


of trees - & it is a beautiful place to be. My coven is White Willow, & my Church is Spiral Oak. Say...isn't your Church Spiral Oak, too?

Now that we've moved into spring, & summer is close behind, I get to go camping fairly often, & spend my share of "tree time" out where the trees live. We also will be doing our COSO rites outside through the summer, so we will have trees surrounding us, forming a protective "outer circle" around our human one. People used to call those of us who speak out about protecting the Earth "tree-huggers" (maybe they still do - I stopped listening a long time ago) - but if you ever are feeling weak & worn down, & need strength & support, you can find that & more by hugging a tree. Holding onto or leaning against something alive that is rooted firmly in the Earth can do wonders for your own ability to pick yourself back up & face your challenges in a strong & capable way. Don't take my word for it - try it yourself! Or, if you need peace of mind, let yourself sit on the ground against a tree & drink in the power & stillness to be found there.

Many people's most precious magickal tools are made from trees - traditional items such as wands & staves, & some not as commonly thought-of by all of us as tools: dreamcatchers, beads, bowls, pipes, drums, flutes - & at our house, guitars & harps! In some traditions, people leave gifts for the trees, especially if they take a fallen piece to use as a wand or staff - gifts I leave are sometimes water, coins, stones, or a song, or a part of myself - like hair or a drop of blood, since I'm taking part of a physical body.

Whatever relationship you may have with trees - know that they are there, & they will speak to you if you choose to listen. 



**Kids!! Send us YOUR writing, drawings, thoughts, or ideas for the next Acorn!**



## \*\*\*Kidspirations!\*\*\*

### Cinderella 2

Cinderella wanted  
to go to the ball  
but got told no,  
to go play  
with her doll  
and she started  
to bawl  
but then  
someone said  
"do not cry."

It was Paul  
who was with  
his friend Saul.  
Saul was carrying  
a basketball  
and Paul was carrying  
a football  
with a volleyball  
for me.

It was nightfall  
so he carried me  
to the ball  
then we danced  
together  
and lived happily  
ever after.  
That is all.

### Hand to Hand Heart to Heart

Together  
Forever  
holding hands  
you to me  
and  
me to you

You  
Can tell  
the  
whole  
world  
I  
don't  
care.  
Just  
don't  
you  
break  
my  
heart.

I know  
we were  
meant to  
be together  
forever  
holding hands  
you to me and me to you.

Poetry by Dragon, age 11, of Akron





Tree Meanings

If you find yourself very drawn to a certain kind of tree, it might be trying to tell you something!

**Alder** - energy, movement

**Ash** - survival skills, gift of knowledge

**Birch** - beginnings, healing, knowing

**Elder** - endings

**Fir** - hope

**Hawthorn** - focus, dedication

**Hazel** - wisdom, healing

**Heather** - balance

**Holly** - foresight, defense

**Oak** - enduring strength

**Poplar** - resurrection, transformation, joy

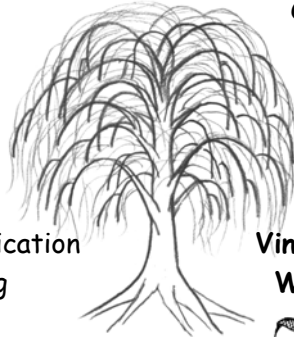
**Reed** - inspiration, music, security

**Rowan** - vision

**Vine** - extreme joy, sorrow

**Willow** - flexibility, grace

**Yew** - death, destiny



The Fox's Den



Before I even say a word, I'll bet some of you know exactly what I'm going to offer up this time around as my idea for something to do - & you're absolutely right: Go Climb a Tree!!!

Seriously - if you are type of person happy just letting your mind & spirit take you places...climb or sit under a tree & see where the two of you (& maybe whoever or whatever else lives in that tree) end up. If you are like me, & like to be "doing," then take something with you that you enjoy - a good book, a sketch pad, a notebook for writing, a craft project, a musical instrument to practice...or even something you have to do, like homework - & head for a friendly tree. You both might enjoy the company, & you'll be surprised at the kind of peace & inspiration that can come from sharing space in a quiet way with another of the children of Mother Earth.

