

Sycamore Gap

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David Babatunde Wilson

Transition Music

Music is integral to so many sensory stories. Consistent transition music at the start and end of a story helps to enable children and young people to anticipate what is coming next and to participate more fully in the story-sharing process. They also help to set the mood for the story.

Please feel free to choose your own transition music. The following are only suggestions:

Introductory music:

- **Robin Hood Prince of Thieves – theme song**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b5Edkb2Qo9c>

Story ending:

- **Hope for a Tree**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XqgWJJKBOzc>



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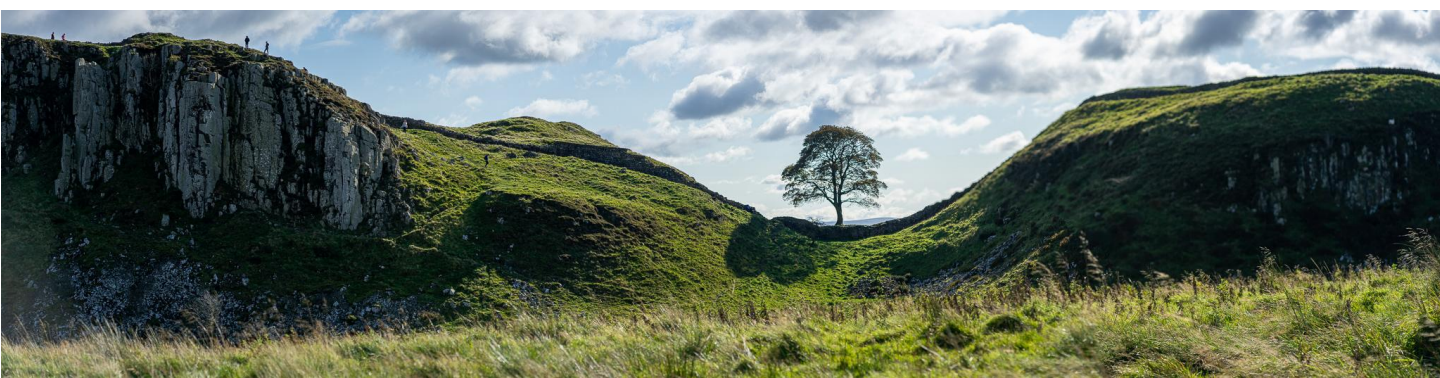
Resources

You will need some sensory resources available for this story.

- **Sycamore 'helicopter' seeds or origami sycamore seeds**
- **Fan**
- **Fluffy sheep**
- **Artificial grass**
- **Wooden blocks to build a wall**
- **Roman shield, sword and/or helmet (home-made)**
- **Small (artificial) plant**
- **Jam sandwich**
- **Tree branch / tree bark**
- **Lycra band**
- **Toy camera / mobile phone**
- **Heart shaped cushion**
- **Fabric with hearts on**
- **Sound switch – JJ Heller "Growing Older"**
- **Toy / home made model axe**
- **Sound switch – chain saw sounds**
- **Large seeds (e.g. beans or sunflower)**
- **Tray of compost or sand**

There are opportunities for movement in this story:
walking, stretching and swaying

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Sensory resources and activities

Sycamore 'helicopter' seeds
Or Origami sycamore seeds
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OYAjxj0nvDw>)

*Blow on learners' hands or cheeks
Encourage learners to blow*



The sycamore seed fell
from the tree.
As it fell it was picked
up by a gust of wind.



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Sensory resources and activities

Fan
Fluffy sheep
Artificial grass



CC0 1.0 Free SVG vector files

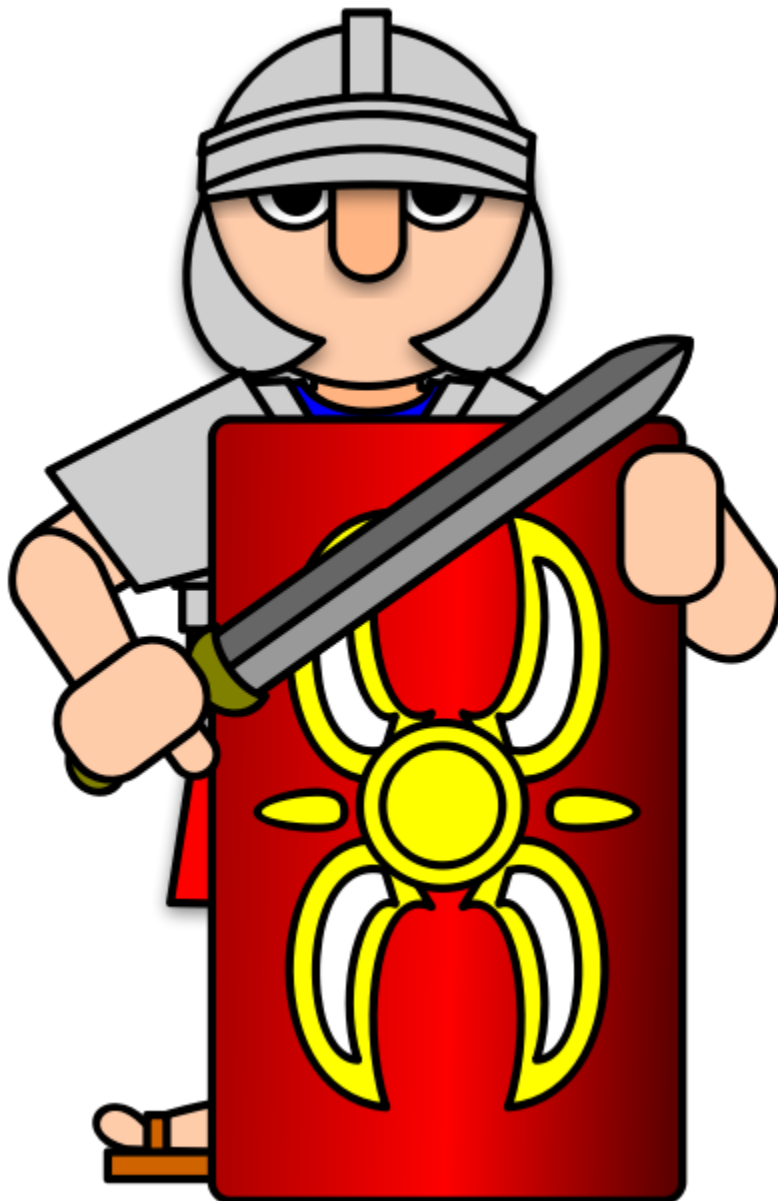
The seed spun through
the air..
..high above the sheep
and fields and walls.



Sensory resources and activities

Wooden blocks to build a wall
Roman shield, sword and/or
helmet (home-made)

CC0 1.0 Free SVG vector files



At last it came to rest
in a gap by the ancient
Roman wall.



Sensory resources and activities

Small plant
Cover eyes with hands



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The seed grew into a
small sapling.
No-one noticed it was
there.



Sensory resources and activities

Jam sandwiches
Tree branches / tree bark



The sapling grew into a
small tree.

Sometimes the farmer
stopped to eat his
lunch by the tree.



Sensory resources and activities

*Lycra band in a loop – learners pull
the band to its maximum extension
Learners (and adults) flex muscles*



The small tree grew for
150 years.
It became a big, strong
tree.



Sensory resources and activities

Toy camera / mobile phone
*Learners walk in a group around the
classroom*

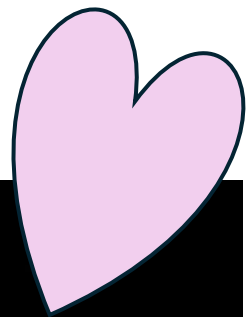
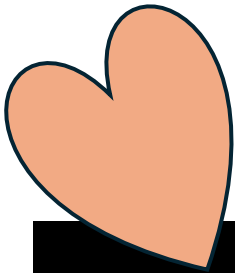


People began to visit
the tall tree in the gap.
Everyone wanted a
picture!



Sensory resources and activities

Heart-shaped cushion
Fabric with hearts on
*Learners shade their eyes to 'search' in
the distance*



Some came from a long
way away just to see
the tree.
People loved the tree in
the gap.



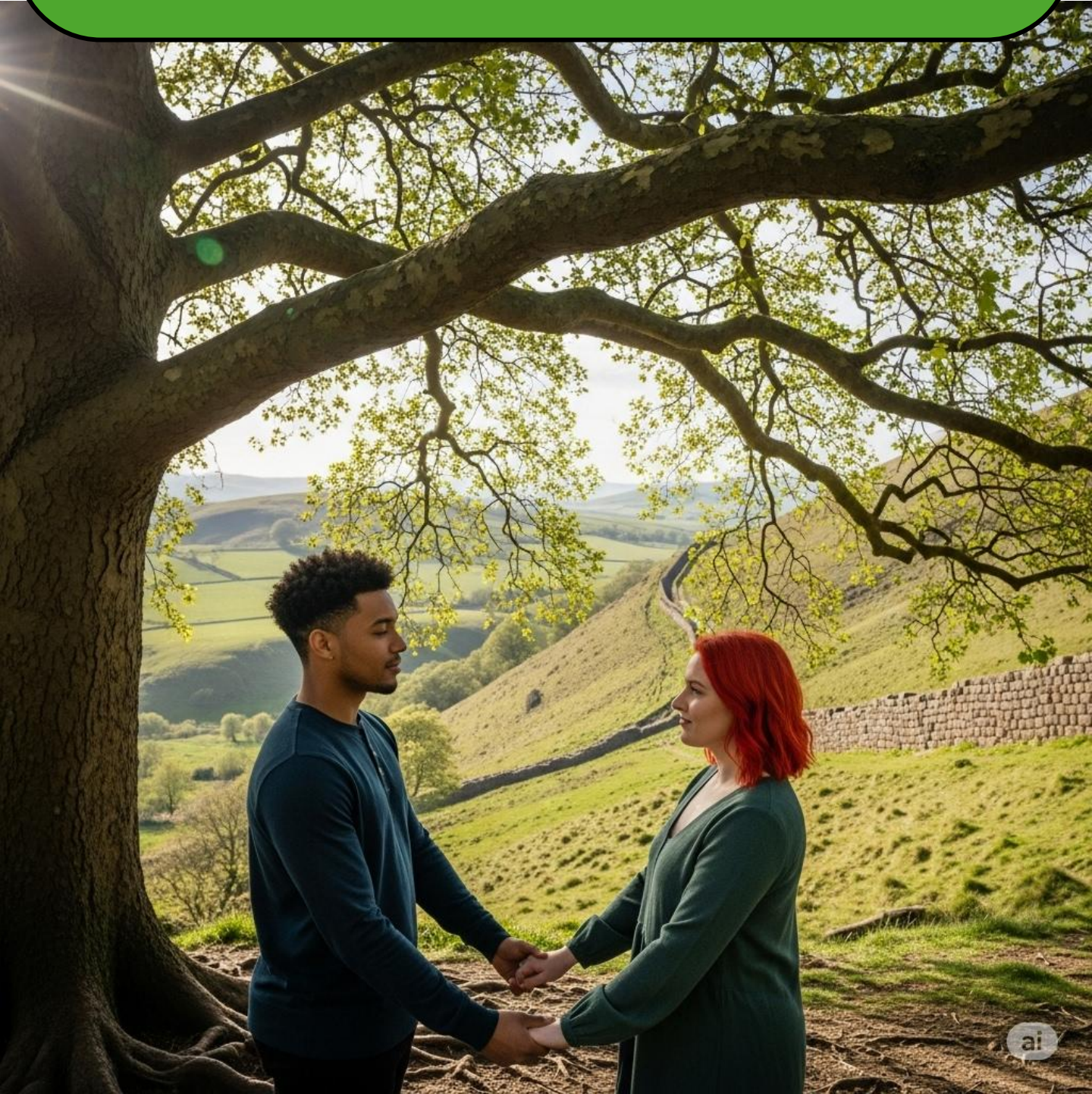
Sensory resources and activities

Sound switch – JJ Heller
“Growing Older”



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The tree was over 150
years old.
It had seen many
things.



Sensory resources and activities

Toy / home made model axe
Sound switch – chain saw
sounds



One night two men
decided to cut the tree
down.
Everyone was very sad.



Sensory resources and activities

Large seeds (e.g. beans or sunflower)

Tray of compost or sand

Learners 'plant' seeds in the compost or sand



Scientists have taken
seeds from the tree and
planted them all
around the country.



Sensory resources and activities

*Learners (and adults) start hunched over small then gradually stretch out tall and wide
(Gross motor)*



Maybe the Sycamore
Gap tree will grow
again.



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“He who plants a tree, plants a hope” Lucy Larcom



Though he was born in Nigeria and brought up in Botswana, David Babatunde Wilson is settled in North Yorkshire. He divides his time between his jobs as a Dad, household cook, Guide helper, writing poetry and working as a Special Needs teacher.

David has had poems published in a variety of online and paper publications including Disabled Tales, View from Atlantis, Beyond the Pane and the Ledbury Poetry Festival.