

ACTIVITIES FOR WILLIAMSTOWN BOTANIC GARDENS

Task: Story Trees

Description: Visit the gardens to help inspire stories from the trees.

Level: Grades 5, 6

Outcomes: Inspire and encourage literacy

Materials:

- Paper & Pen
- Tree Map

Procedure:

1. Find the six special trees (detailed on the Tree Map)
2. Tell about why it is special
3. Ask each child to choose a tree.
4. Arrange for five minutes thinking time for story. (Can be anything that is inspired by being near the tree.)
5. Talk about ideas.
6. Write stories either in the garden or back at school.

Additional: Find other trees that inspire writing!

TREE MAP



TREE STORIES...

1. **Washington Palms** – These high waving palms are also known as ‘Sky Dusters’. Cleaning the skies and clouds, reaching beyond to where?
2. **Golden Elm** – Come beneath the branches of the Golden Elm. Can you feel the magic?
3. **Bottle Tree** – This distinctive tree bulges out at the seams. Is it air or water? Is it a misfit from the desert? How does it feel?
4. **Morton Bay Figs** – How old are these trees that circle around us, watching us. What stories could they tell? What secrets do they hide?
5. **Blue Gum** – A fast growing timber plant. It was used for railway sleepers, fuel, paper making, oil and honey. A practical tree but why is it blue?
6. **Chinese Elm** - The overstretching boughs shade the walk around the lake, sheltering those who pass. Who passes by, who meets at this special place?