

LAST TREE IN THE FOREST

A Sensory Drama by Gill Brigg

**Adapted from an original story: “A Flower in the Forest” by
Hugh Lewin and Lisa Kopper**

Pupils and adult supporters work in pairs.
Each pair is provided with a resource tray.
There is a wheeled chair for the teacher.
Resource trays for each pair are handed out and placed out of sight.

The room is made dark slowly.

Screens are turned off and a note is placed on the door:
'Please Do Not Disturb'

Teacher says: ***We will all be working in a story together.***

Check-in with everyone that they are ready to start.

The teacher begins:

This story is about the last tree in the forest.

A bare branch is lit with a torch. Teacher models the activity once, then other adults work 1:1 with pupils.

After some time, the torches are returned to the resource tray.

All the trees around it have been cut down.

The twigs are snapped by the adults with pupils joining in if they choose.

The hot season is long, and the rains are late.

The focus is now the teacher.
Yellow fabric on a pole is held up in front of the teacher.
The teacher moves a torch beam across the fabric to represent the sun moving across the sky.

We wait.

Teacher hits a wood block to mark time

The forest turns to dust.

Pairs work with trays of sand pouring it through their hands.
After some time, the sand trays are removed.

I cannot breathe, I am so sad.

There is only one tree left.

I sit and watch the sky. I sing for rain.

Teacher holds a single twig in front of them as they sing:

Please rain. Please rain.

And then a drop.

Teacher sprays water onto their hand.

Is it from my eyes because I am crying?

Teacher sprays water onto their face and invites pupils to touch the wet cheeks.

No! It's from the sky.

A hundred thousand drops fall.

Water is sprayed into the air.

Trees grow everywhere around me.

Teacher holds a leafy branch lit with green light and peeps at each pupil through the leaves.

And happiness is everywhere.

Lavender scent is sprayed into the air..

I can breathe again.

Calm breathing to end.

The session ends with lots of praise.

The room is calmly returned to its usual state.

You will need:

'Please Do Not Disturb' sign

Wheeled chair

A resource tray for each pair in which there is:

- Sand tray
- Torch
- Big twig
- Floral aromas on cotton pads

Lightweight yellow cloth pegged onto a cane

Large torch

Water spray with lavender

Water spray with no aroma

Wooden block and drumstick

Large leafy tree branch