

The Apple Tree



One day a little Cherokee boy planted an apple seed in his backyard. The boy watered the seed and kept the weeds away.



One morning a seedling appeared. The little boy said, “Look at you! Once you were just a seed, now you are an apple tree.”

He put a sign around the tree, so no one would step on it.



In no time at all, the seedling grew branches and more leaves. The boy was so proud.

“Look at you! Once you were just a seed, now you are an apple tree. You are beautiful!”

The little tree really was not so beautiful, but because the little boy loved the tree so much, the tree felt beautiful.



Still a few days later, the boy found the little apple tree sad and droopy.

“What’s wrong, little tree?” the boy asked.

“What good is an apple tree that makes no apples?” asked the little tree.

The boy replied, “When we are big, we will both be able to do lots of things!”

Yet, as he walked away, he saw the tree still looked sad.

That night as the tree slept, the boy tied a big red apple on a branch of the little apple tree.



he next morning, the boy went to check on his friend.

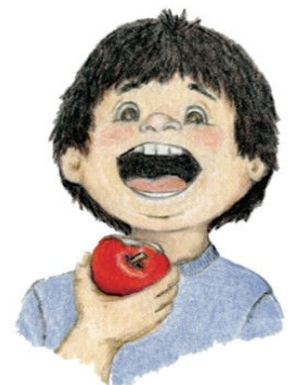
“Look at you! You have a big red apple,” he said.

The little apple tree said, “You have cared for me and loved me. I would like you to have my first apple.”

“Thank you,” the boy said.

And he took a great big bite.

“Delicious!”





As the seasons passed, the boy and the apple tree grew...
They both grew tall and strong.



Once again, the boy went to the tree. "Look at you! Once just a tiny seed, now you are an apple tree. You are beautiful!"
The apple tree was beautiful...





ink blossoms covered it from tip to top.
Butterflies, birds and honey bees came to visit.
And when the pink blossoms fell off...

...yellow apples took their place.

So many yellow apples, the branches bowed from the weight.



nce again the boy said to the tree, “Look at you! You were once just a seed, now you are a big apple tree.”



The apple tree replied, “Yes, I am a big apple tree now and these yellow apples are very grand, but I will never forget my first apple, the one the Creator made red...”

“...just to show how much I am loved.”

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