

# TREES OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium x Slingsby Theatre Company



## ABOUT

In The Giant's Garden, Ida and the other children have a strong connection to the 'big tree' and are devastated when the Giant builds a wall and cuts off their access to the tree. In the Tree of Light, the Moonfolk have one single tree left, the Grandmother Tree, and they have come to love her deeply. Grandmother Tree shares stories of the Earthkind from her perspective.

There are many trees in Adelaide Botanic Garden that hold a special place in the hearts of visitors across generations. You may even have one that springs to mind yourself! Perhaps it is the remnant River Red Gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) predating the 1857 opening of Adelaide Botanic Garden or the Moreton Bay Figs (*Ficus macrophylla*) with their sprawling buttress roots. For a lot of people, the Bottle Tree (*Brachychiton rupestris*) in the Australian Forest is a tree that they keep coming back to. There are often visitors sitting quietly, reading or journaling beneath the leafy canopy.

Your task: Explore Adelaide Botanic Garden, connect with your own Tree of Significance and write a story from its perspective.

Use the prompts below to help inform your story. You may like to use your imagination entirely for this task or conduct some research into the species of tree you are sitting with. You may find some information on plant labels found by the tree.

### 1: Who are you?

- What is your name (real or made up)?
- How old are you?
- What kind of tree are you?
- Where do your roots reach? What do they remember?

### 2: What have you witnessed?

- What has changed around you since you were young?
- What important events have happened near you?
- What seasons do you love the most, and why?
- What have you seen that has made you happy or scared?

### 3: What do you notice that humans don't?

- What tiny details do you observe every day?
- What can you sense through your bark, leaves, roots, or branches?
- What sounds do you hear that people ignore?

### 4: Who visits you?

- Who comes to sit near you?
- What kinds of people return again and again?
- What do you think they feel when they are with you?

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## **5: What other living things are part of your world?**

- Who lives in your branches?
- Who shelters in your roots?
- What insects, birds, fungi, or other creatures are your closest companions?

## **6: What would you like humans to understand?**

- What do people forget about nature?
- What do you wish you could tell visitors directly?
- What do you need from humans to survive?

## **PLANNING NOTES AND SKETCHES**