

Here are some fun activities inspired by **Shakespeare's Seasons**.

FOR CREATIVE KIDS:

SEASONAL TREE COLLAGES

In Shakespeare's Seasons, you will see wonderful paper collages of trees. See how different the trees look in different seasons. Which trees are your favorite?

Start with a bare tree. Trace the tree below onto colored construction paper. If you are using white paper, color the tree before you cut it out. Use scissors to cut out the tree. Adults: You can trace the tree and make copies for the kids to cut out.

Make leaves, fruit, and flowers. Collect pieces of magazine or catalog pages, construction paper, and/or tissue paper. Crumple up the paper to make flowers and fruit. Cut out tiny leaf, petal, fruit, or snowflake shapes.

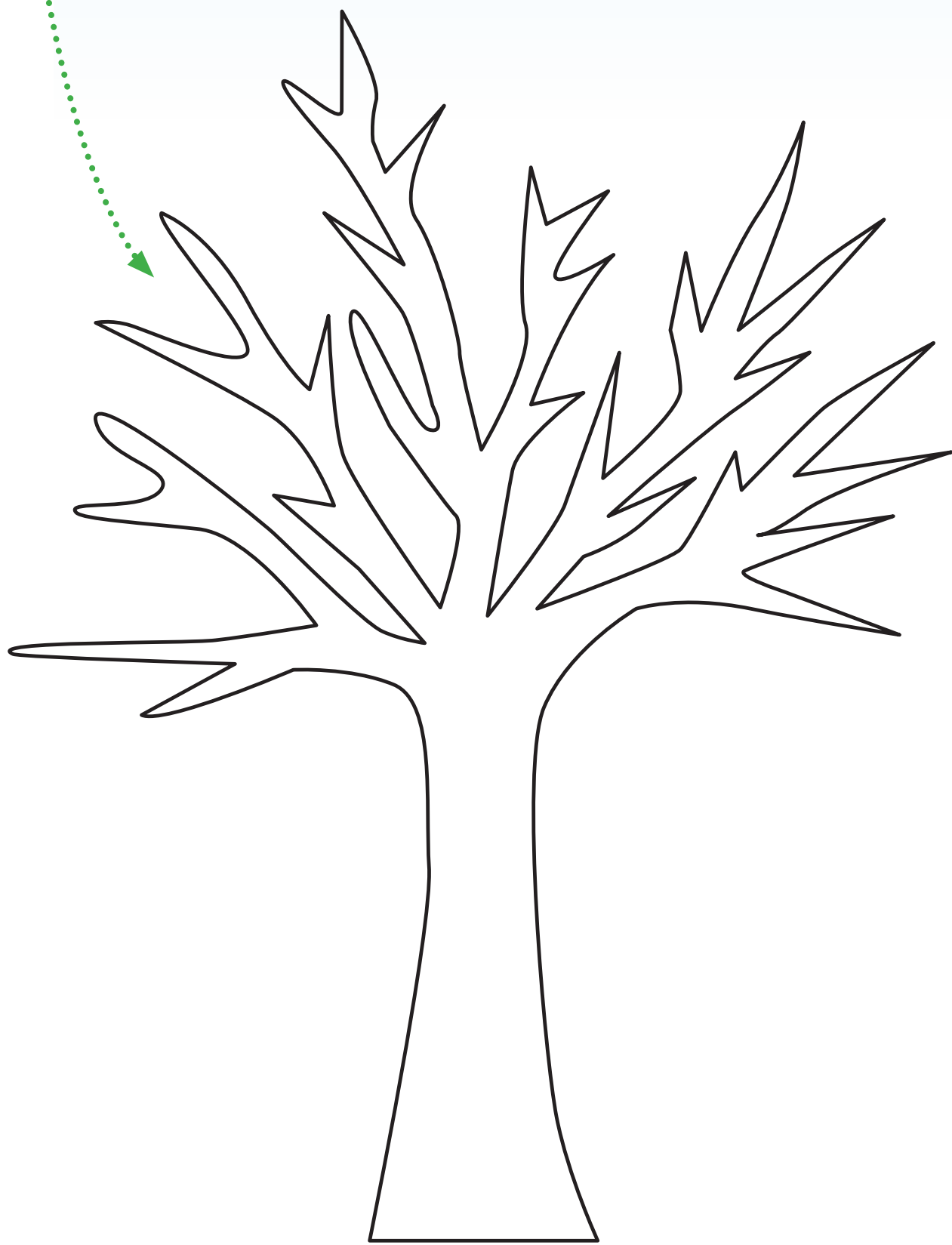
Create bark! Tear paper in long strips. Glue the strips in an overlapping pattern along the tree trunk.

Decorate the ground. Use green, brown, and white paper to create grass, mud, or snow.

What else?

Add paper flowers or animals to the ground, too. Are there birds, nests, or beehives in the trees? Is there a bench, a tire-swing, or a hanging bird-feeder? Did someone carve their initials in the tree?

Top off your collage with a verse from *Shakespeare's Seasons*!



FOR CLASSROOMS AND GROUPS:



CLASSROOM CANOPY

Supplies

- Colorful tissue paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Fishing Line

Pick Seasons. Put the children into 4 groups groups—1 for each season.

Make 4 big branches. Have each group draw a big, long branch onto corrugated cardboard. Then have them cut out the branches.

Decorate! Encourage them to work together to design their branch for their season. They can cut out and glue paper leaves, flowers, snow, and more onto both sides of each branch.

Hang up your work. Using fishing line, hang the branches

PLAY WITH WORDS

What season are you? Shakespeare writes "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?" But what if he compared thee to a winter's day? Or an autumn day? What might he (or you) say?

- What type of day do you feel like? Why? Draw it.
- Make up a new verse or rhyme to describe the day's weather.

Act it out. Divide the group into teams. Let them each secretly choose a season. Have each group become that season, creating gestures for the weather and coming up with poses that show things you'd see that time of year. Can the rest of the group guess what each team is acting out?

Learn the role. In Shakespeare's day, a scribe would copy each character's lines onto a scroll. The "roll" would then be given to each actor to learn his line. This is where the term "learning the role" came from. Have the students write out their favorite verse on a scroll that they make and decorate. Use the scrolls for a small classroom performance.