

# Sister Trees

There once were three trees. They stood side by side each other. The first tree was tall and slim. Her leaves were long. The second tree was short and stout. Her leaves were round. The tree in the middle was not tall. It was not short. This tree drooped. She no longer grew any leaves.

"I'm so pretty," said the tall tree.

"I'm so healthy," said the short tree.

"I'm neither," said the tree in the middle. She was very sad.

The rain made the tall tree grow taller. The rain made the short tree fatter.

The rain made the tree in the middle droop even more. She wished she were taller, she wished she were fuller, and she wished she had leaves.

One day, the tall, slim tree began to droop. The middle tree comforted her and told her she still had many years ahead. One day the short and stout tree began to lose her leaves. The middle tree comforted her and told her she still had many more.

The droopy tree without leaves was no longer sad. She knew she had lived a long time. Her job was not to look pretty, but to help others.