favorite place in the world is a tree. My tree grows from one towering trunk to a twisted maze of gnarled branches. When I climb my tree, it feels like a world unlike any other. I feel something almost unreal, sort of a flying sensation. This tree is also very powerful. When something in my life is messed up, or I have a problem, I go to my tree. If I climb up in it and concentrate on the

issue I am facing, I am guaranteed to find a solution. My tree also helps me let my imagination run wild. I always think of a creative idea for an upcoming report, essay, story, or poem when I'm in my tree.

In summer, my tree is covered by huge, green lush leaves. In fall, it has beautiful multicolored leaves that only last awhile before they fall to the ground and wither. In winter the snow and ice

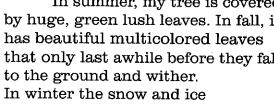
By Brandy Sulek,

(Ohio) Middle

stick to the branches and shine brightly like diamonds. My tree seems to be a beautiful, powerful, yet magically enchanted tree of emotions and strength.

THE WALNU





CHALLENGE

A Good Place for Thinking

Brandy climbs trees to think about her problems and to let her imagination run wild. Write the reasons you think a tree is a good place to think. Draw the place you go to find your best ideas. Write the reasons why your favorite place is so good for thinking. Ask around, Does everyone have favorite thinking places? Do they pick their thinking places for the same reasons you picked yours?