



Ten tall oak trees

- 1 Copy out the poem below neatly and carefully - watch your spellings!
- 2 Choose a colour and underline the reason a tree was lost in each verse.
- 3 Write a paragraph to explain why the UK has lost so many trees and is still losing them.

Ten Tall Oak trees

Ten tall oak trees
Standing in a line,
'Warships,' cried King Henry,
Then there were nine.

Nine tall oak trees
Growing strong and straight,
'Charcoal,' breathed the furnace,
Then there were eight.

Eight tall oak trees
Reaching towards heaven,
'Sizzle,' spoke the lightning,
Then there were seven.

Seven tall oak trees
Branches, leaves and sticks,
'Firewood,' smiled the merchant,
Then there were six.

Six tall oak trees
Glad to be alive,
'Barrels,' Boomed the brewery,
There were five.

Five tall oak trees
Suddenly a roar,
'Gangway,' screamed the west wind,

Poem by Richard Edwards

Then there were four.

Four tall oak trees
Sighing like the sea,
'Floorboards,' beamed the builder,
Then there were three.

Three tall oak trees
Groaning as trees do,
'Unsafe,' claimed the council,
Then there were two.

Two tall oak trees
Spreading in the sun,
'Progress,' snarled the by-pass,
Then there was one.

One tall oak tree
Wishing it could run,
'Nuisance,' grumped the farmer,
Then there were none.

No tall oak trees
Search the field in vain,
Only empty skylines
And the cold, grey rain.

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