



## **The Oak Tree** by Johnny Ray Ryder, Jr.

A mighty wind blew night and day.

It stole the Oak Tree's leaves away.

Then snapped its boughs and pulled its bark

until the Oak was tired and stark.

But still the Oak Tree held its ground while other trees

fell all around. The weary wind gave up and spoke,

"How can you still be standing Oak?"

The Oak Tree said, I know that you can break each

branch of mine in two, carry every leaf away,

shake my limbs and make me sway.

But I have roots stretched in the earth, growing stronger

since my birth. You'll never touch them, for you see

they are the deepest part of me.

Until today, I wasn't sure of just how much I could endure.

But now I've found with thanks to you,

I'm stronger than I ever knew.