The Giving Tree
Written and Illustrated by Shel Silverstein

Goal: Children will learn about the gift of giving to others.

1. Show the cover of the book and ask the children to read the title.
2. Ask about the meaning of the word, “give.”
3. Read the story stopping from time-to-time to ask:
   a. Who does the tree love?
   b. What gesture is the tree making toward the boy as he runs to her?
   c. What does the boy gather? What does he do with the leaves?
   d. Why does the boy climb up her trunk? (2 reasons)
   e. What game does the boy and the tree play?
   f. What does the tree cover the boy with when he would sleep?
   g. How much does the boy love the tree?
   h. As time goes by, what happens to the little boy?
   i. What is the first “gift” the tree gives to the boy, and what does he do with the gift?
   j. What is the second “gift” the tree gives to the young man, and what does he do with the gift?
   k. What is the third “gift” the tree gives to the older man, and what does he do with the gift?
   l. After the three gifts, what is left of the tree?
   m. What is the final “gift” the tree gives the old man, and what does he do with it?

4. Why does the tree give everything she has to the boy?
5. Does the tree love the boy more than he loves her? If so, why? If not, why?
6. What is this story trying to say?
7. How can this tree represent a military parent?

Activities:

- Draw pictures of the “gifts” a military parent gives to his or her child(ren).
- Compile these pictures into a booklet and give to military children in your school.
- Make copies of these pictures and take them to a VA hospital so that the veterans there may remember the gifts they gave to their children.