



## Ten Tall Oak Trees

Name. \_\_\_\_\_



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,' hissed 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,  
Then there were five.

Five tall oak trees  
Suddenly a roar,  
'Gangway,' screamed the westwind,  
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,' grumbled the farmer,  
Then there were none.

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

Richard Edwards.

### Ideas for activities

1. **Act out the poem with ten children to be the oak trees.**
2. **Write your own poem based on the life cycle of one oak tree. You could start with 'One tiny acorn growing on a stem,'**
3. **Write your own poem about planting a new forest with oak trees.**