

**Reader's Theater for *Annie Glover Is NOT a Tree Lover*
By Darleen Bailey Beard**

Annotation:

Annie's interest in Grandma's causes turns to humiliation when Grandma chains herself to a huge native elm so the old tree cannot be removed to make way for a new swimming pool, and matters only get worse in Annie's eyes when her Elvis-impersonating uncle and his friends come to stay with her family.

Reader's Theatre Script:

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Cast of Characters:

	Annie	Narrator		
	X	X		
Grandma			Leroy	Dixie
X			X	X

ANNIE: No, Grandma. Don't make me do this.

GRANDMA: Come on now, Annie. Wrap this chain around me.

ANNIE: No.

GRANDMA: Lock it.

ANNIE: (whines) Noooo. I don't want to lock it. Besides you can lock it without me.

NARRATOR: Across the street, a bus groaned to a stop. Kids tumbled out, walking into Will Rogers Elementary. Annie turned her head and ducked down, hoping no one had seen her.

GRANDMA: Annie? Stop stallin' or you'll be late to school.

ANNIE: (still whining) *Grand-ma.*

GRANDMA: Just do it!

NARRATOR: Annie reluctantly wrapped the chain around Grandma

GRANDMA: Now lock it.

ANNIE: Do you have the key?

GRANDMA: Right here, Chickadee (patting her pocket).

ANNIE: Are you sure you...

GRANDMA: (interrupting firmly) Lock it!

NARRATOR: Annie clicked the padlock and her grandma was chained to the enormous American elm right across the street from Annie's school... the century-old tree Grandma called Elmer.

GRANDMA: Now skedaddle. And don't worry about me and Elmer. We'll be just fine.

NARRATOR: But Annie wasn't worried about Grandma or the old tree. She was worried about what all her friends would say when they saw Grandma, and it didn't take long before she found out. Their teacher, Mrs. Hodge, had barely entered the room when Leroy piped up.

LEROY: Mrs. Hodge! Did you read the paper this morning? They're building a swimming pool right across the street! It's going to...

NARRATOR: Leroy stopped and pointed out the window, his mouth gaping open.

LEROY: Look! There's an old man out there chained to that big tree! — Wait! That's not a man. That's a lady! See? She has pink shoes on!

NARRATOR: Annie dropped in her chair.

DIXIE: Who is she?

LEROY: Must be some kind of weirdo.

DIXIE: Hey! I know who that is. That's Annie's grandma! She lives with Annie down the street from me.

NARRATOR: Annie drooped even lower in her chair. She was afraid to imagine what would happen when they found out Grandma was chained to Elmer so the city couldn't cut down the huge old tree to make way for the new pool her friends wanted so badly. What do you do when your very own grandmother's chained to a tree for the entire world to see, and you feel like disappearing into a deep, dark hole? Even worse, what will happen to Grandma when the chainsaws and the bulldozers come for Elmer? Read Darleen Bailey Beard's *Annie Glover Is NOT a Tree Lover* to find out.

Beard, Darleen Bailey. *Annie Glover Is NOT a Tree Lover*. Illustrated by Heather Maione. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2009.