



Welcome Home, Willow!

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Premise

A new Dryad is moving into the garden, a willow tree. You are all very excited to meet them, but first you must get their home ready for their first night in the garden. Repotting a Dryad can be extremely difficult -- you have to take into account their species and personal preferences. Work together to welcome the willow tree to her new home planted beside the lake.

You will need

- 🌲 At least three Dryad players
- 🌲 One cardboard box
- 🌲 Decorations: streamers, markers, construction paper, interesting stationery tape, etc.
- 🌲 The rules and appendices for this game
- 🌲 OPTIONAL: Music or forest sound effects

Setup

Put the box in the middle of the playspace. This is Willow's planter. Designate one part of the playspace as the lake, one part as the shore, and the rest as the Dryad garden. Place the decorations in the garden. Turn on your music or sound effects.

Cut out the tree names and personality traits from the appendices. Place two random traits aside. These will form the personality of the new Willow Dryad.

All players pick one tree name and two personality traits. Once all players have made their selections, either random or considered, introduce yourselves to each other in a circle with tree name, pronouns, and personality traits. Dryads may have any pronouns.

Play begins when all players have introduced their Dryads, and one player introduces Willow. Willow's pronouns are they/them.

Play

Unused tree names and personality traits should be set aside for players who come in late. They may introduce themselves to the other Dryads through play. Dryad players who have to leave early can put their tree names and personality traits with the unused ones for new players to pick up.

During play, Dryads decorate Willow's planter and talk about life in the garden. The garden is whatever the players would like it to be, apart from the fact that it has a lake, a shoreline, and Dryads. Some suggestions for things to talk about:

-  Sorcerers are frequenting the garden to collect rare plants.
-  The trees are in a feud with the shrubs.
-  Children prefer one tree over another, this is a subject of much contention.
-  There will be a wedding in the garden.
-  Is there an alligator in the lake?
-  What will Willow be like?
-  Do you think lightning will strike one of us when the druids come to celebrate?
-  Where will the birds nest this year?

Play continues for two hours. If new players come in, or players leave, that's fine. There are lots of Dryads in the garden, and they don't all know each other. Remember to excitedly explain Willow's arrival (and what they're supposedly like) to new Dryads!

Safety

The Door Is Always Open. Players can come and go as they please, this is a low-pressure game about collectively creating a home for a new member of the community.

[The OK Check-In.](#)

Redirect. If someone says something you don't want to include in play, simply say "we shouldn't talk about that before Willow gets here" and move on. This is a sign to other players to change the topic.

Appendix 1

TREE NAMES	
Arborvitae	Hophornbeam
Quaking Aspen	Larch
Basswood	Honey-Locust
Beech	Sugar Maple
Paper Birch	Scarlet Oak
Butternut	White Oak
Black Cherry	Pitch Pine
Chestnut	Red Cedar
Cottonwood	Shadbush
Slippery Elm	White Spruce
Balsam Fir	Red Spruce
Hawthorn	Sycamore
Hemlock	Tulip
Bitternut Hickory	Walnut

Appendix 2

PERSONALITY TRAITS		
Deviant	Spontaneous	Demanding
Grounded	Curious	Gregarious
Inspirational	Manipulative	Shy
Lonely	Compassionate	Stable
Industrious	Sturdy	Mystical
Secretive	Wise	Spiritual
Depressed	Restless	Petulant
Naive	Foolish	Witty
Considerate	Honest	Interfering
Jealous	Quixotic	Affectionate
Easy-going	Carefree	Dictatorial
Aggressive	Decisive	Humanitarian
Fearless	Conservative	Gentle
Stubborn	Selfish	Prying
Anxious	Rude	Calm
Dishonest	Overbearing	Careful
Stubborn	Materialistic	Childish
Restless	Impulsive	Rigid
Coarse	Shy	Sensuous
Conscientious	Fussy	Wicked

Credits

Writer: Jacqueline Bryk

Character Traits: <http://writingexercises.co.uk/traits.php>

Trees: <http://bhort.bh.cornell.edu/tree/list.htm>

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