

## Grade 3: Dance, Drama and Critical Literacy

### Alternate Letter from a Tree

*Hello class,*

*I am an Eastern Hemlock. I was born 88 years ago right where I stand tall today. I have watched all my children and grandchildren grow up around me. I have also watched our many friends such as the Balsam Fir (they can be very prickly) and the Black Walnut (they grow quickly so we sometimes compete for space, but we are friendly) grow together with us. Together with the many animals such as rabbits, squirrels, snakes, chipmunks and raccoons, as well as the even more numerous birds such as the robins, chickadees, blue jays, owls and sparrows, we together call this forest home. We give some many homes, food, oxygen, protection and shade.*

*Recently, we see from our top branches our friends and family being cut to make room for your houses. We see the ground we used to grow out of paved over to make roads for the cars that you use. The air is changing, and some of us are sick. There are fewer animals and birds then before, and even fewer insects.*

*We have heard from our friend the wind that 100 of us will be cut to make your school even bigger. We ask that you teach others about our importance and start a campaign to save us. We are more important and useful alive then dead. Please save us.*

*We know that you will listen to our concerns and help us.*

*Thank you for your help,*

*The Eastern Hemlock*