

Everybody
needs
a rock.

I'm sorry for kids
who don't have
a rock
for a friend.

I'm sorry for kids
who only have
tricycles
bicycles
horses
elephants
goldfish
three-room playhouses
fire engines
wind up dragons
and things like that –
if
they don't have
a
rock
for a friend.

That's why
I'm giving them
my own
TEN RULES
for
finding
a
rock....

Not
just
any rock
I mean
A
special
rock
that you find
yourself
and keep
as long as
you can –
maybe
forever.

If somebody says,
"What's so special
about that rock?"
don't even tell them.
I don't.

Nobody
is supposed
to know
what's special
about
another person's
rock

All right.
Here
are
the
rules:

RULE NUMBER 1

If you can,
go to a mountain
made out of
nothing but
a hundred million
small
shiny
beautiful
roundish
rocks.

But if you can't,
anyplace will do.
Even an alley.
Even a sandy road.
.....

RULE NUMBER 6

The size
must be
perfect.
It has to feel
easy
in your hand
when you close
your fingers
over it.
It has to feel

jumpy
in your pocket
when you run.

Some people
touch
a rock
a thousand times
a day.
There aren't many things
that feel
as good as a rock –
if the rock
is
perfect.

RULE NUMBER 9

Always
sniff
a rock.
Rocks have
their own smells.
Some kids can tell
by sniffing
whether a rock
came from the middle
of the earth
or from an ocean
or from a mountain
where wind and sun
touched it
every day
for a million years.
.....

Student Samples:

Everybody Needs A Tree

Everybody needs a tree.
I am sorry for people who don't have a tree.
I am sorry for people who only have
sidewalks, buildings, telephones, cars,
and things like that – if they don't have a tree.

There are millions of important things to know about trees.
I will tell you ten of them.

Number 1 –

Trees make homes for birds, insects, snakes, squirrels, raccoons, and people. Homes need a tree.

Number 2 –

Every tree has a special smell. Some trees smell like cinnamon. Some smell like... I can't describe it, but it's wonderful. If you don't believe me, put your arms around the first tree you can find and breathe deeply. You will see that I am right. Noses need trees.

Number 3 –

When you feel sad. Go climb a tree. If you sit for a while and share sunshine with a tree you will feel better. Sadness needs a tree.

Number 4 –

Trees make oxygen. Air needs a tree.

Number 5 –

Trees make rain by sending water back to the sky. Water needs a tree.

Number 6 –

Tree roots hold the earth together. The earth needs a tree.

Number 7 –

Trees can live for a very long time. I heard about a bristlecone pine tree that is 4,765 years old. Time needs a tree.

Number 8 –

Trees talk to other trees. I can't understand tree messages, but I am sure that trees understand me. I need a tree.

Number 9 –

Trees sing when the wind climbs in their leaves. Tree music is beautiful. Music needs a tree.

Number 10 –

Trees make the world healthy and lovely. Everybody needs a tree.

By Anika Johnson

Everybody Needs a Shore

Everybody needs a shore.
I am sorry for people
who don't have a shore.
I am sorry for people who only have
chairs, tables, streets, cars, cell phones
and things like that –
if they don't have a shore.

The shore is a place
where water kisses the land.
At the shore, you can cool your feet
and rest your heart.
You will hear watery music
and see wonderful creatures
like sea stars and limpets.

The shore is a place
Where gulls laugh in the sky,
Sand pipers sprint,
Crabs dance on the sand.
Ancient stones are round
and smooth-sanded
by millions of rolling waves.

The shore is a place
that can be peaceful
and violent all at once
where you can see life and death together.
Every day, the shore is old and new,
Inviting, frightening, and beautiful.
Everybody needs a shore.

Ilana Foley