

What Kind of Tree Are You?

Throughout THE BRILLIANT FALL OF GIANNA Z, Gianna and Zig play the tree game, assigning people trees to match their personalities. If you were a tree, what kind would you be? Take this quiz to find out!

1. When you have a big project due at school, you're most likely to:
 - a. Work on it a little bit every day until it's done according to the teacher's directions. You'll probably finish before the deadline.
 - b. Spend about half of your time working on your own project and the other half helping friends who might need a hand.
 - c. Tell your parents you're working on your project but actually hang out in your room playing video games or listening to music. You'll meet your deadline, but only because you copy from a friend at the last minute.
 - d. Put off working on the project but finish it in a big, creative flurry at the end. It might not be perfect, but it'll be interesting!
 - e. Make sure the project looks good first. You'll probably win an award for the neatest project and shiniest binder, even if you don't completely understand what you were supposed to learn.
 - f. Work hard with whatever materials you have to do the best project you possibly can. And you're going to finish on time, no matter what obstacles stand in your way. You'll pull an all-nighter if necessary!

2. When you come home from school, you find that your brother or sister has been rummaging around your bedroom. You're mostly likely to handle the situation by:
 - a. Finding him or her to have a calm discussion about your property and your right to privacy.
 - b. Helping to find what he or she was looking for and offering to share it any time.
 - c. Tell your parents what happened and ask that they take care of it. Then sneak into your brother or sister's bedroom and throw things around to make a mess.
 - d. Devise a creative way to booby trap your room – maybe a string tied to the doorknob that causes a bucket of feathers to fall on anyone who enters without your permission!
 - e. First, put everything back in place, exactly where it was. You can't stand to have your room a mess. Then buy a good lock for your door.
 - f. Confront your brother or sister and make it clear that you expect your privacy to be respected. Follow through by talking with your parents and reminding your sibling that your stuff belongs to you.

3. It's Halloween. You're mostly likely to spend the night:
 - a. Dressing up in a simple costume to answer the door for trick-or-treaters and then going out to collect some candy yourself.
 - b. Volunteering at a party for underprivileged kids.
 - c. Causing trouble. You tell your parents you're trick or treating but really roam the neighborhood decorating cars in toilet paper.
 - d. Creating an elaborate haunted house setup, complete with moving ghosts, carved pumpkins, homemade paper spiders, and spooky sound effects, for the trick-or-treaters at your house to enjoy.
 - e. Getting decked out in a perfect – absolutely perfect costume – for a party with your friends. You'll bring elaborately decorated Jack-o-Lantern cupcakes.
 - f. Trick or treating at every single house in the neighborhood. You'll be out every possible minute so as not to miss out on a single candy bar.

4. Your gym teacher says you have to run the mile in less than ten minutes in class next week. You prepare by:
 - a. Starting to run a little every day after school so you can get in shape and work your way up to a mile.
 - b. Checking in with your friends who aren't that good in gym class to encourage them and see if they need any help training.
 - c. Prepare? Why would I prepare? I'm going to figure out a shortcut so I can have the best time without even breaking a sweat.
 - d. Loading up your iPod with the songs that you think will help you run the fastest.
 - e. Going shopping for a new running outfit. As long as you look good, it really doesn't matter if you make it in ten minutes or not.
 - f. Running a mile before school every morning and timing yourself until you can do it in eight minutes flat. That way, you won't be taking any chances when you have to do it in class.

5. You find out that one of your friends is having a big birthday bash and hasn't invited you. You would probably:
 - a. Just wait and see what happens. Maybe he or she just forgot, and if not, you'll find something else to do.
 - b. Burst into tears. But then you buy him or her a gift anyway. No hard feelings.
 - c. Start a nasty rumor about that friend so no one else will want to go to the birthday party either.
 - d. Lavish your friend with beautifully painted homemade birthday cards as a reminder to invite you.
 - e. Wear your coolest outfit to school the next day so your friend will be sure to notice and remember to send your invitation.
 - f. Take a deep breath and ask your friend if he or she is upset with you. Being honest is scary sometimes, but you feel like confronting the problem is usually the best approach.

6. For *your* birthday, your plans would most likely include:
 - a. Just the usual...a family party with cake and a few presents.
 - b. Requesting that people who come to your party donate to your favorite charity instead of purchasing gifts.
 - c. Having a fabulous party and talking it up big time at school, making sure that everyone knows who's invited and who isn't.
 - d. Planning your own party decorations, right down to the homemade piñata.
 - e. Begging your parents to hire a party planner and caterer so that everything is perfect on your big day.
 - f. A busy day of activity – maybe a hike up a mountain or extra long bike ride – before the cake and ice cream.

7. You find out that a girl you know is spreading nasty rumors about you at school. You handle the situation by:
 - a. Ignoring her and waiting for it to blow over.
 - b. Offering to help her with her homework in study hall. Maybe she's feeling frustrated about her classes and that's why she's being mean.
 - c. "Accidentally" pouring chocolate milk all over her homework folder during lunch.
 - d. Laughing at it. In fact, you put together your own tabloid newspaper for your friends, with her gossip included as silly headlines on the front page.
 - e. Talking to every single person you know to make sure they know those rumors aren't true.
 - f. Confronting the girl, asking her why she's targeting you, and telling her to knock it off.

How many times did you answer with each letter?

a _____

b _____

c _____

d _____

e _____

f _____

The letter with the highest score will match you up with your perfect tree. (If two or more letters are tied, you are a hybrid – a combination of those trees!)

a) You're a red oak. You have a sure, steady personality, and you don't really like to draw attention to yourself. You're easy-going but strong and steady. Don't be afraid to try new things once in a while; that's how you'll grow.

Red oak trees don't have showy leaves in autumn, but they're among the last trees to lose their leaves. Red oaks are tolerant of many different kinds of soil – not particularly high maintenance trees. The wood of the red oak is strong and useful and often used in furniture.

Note: If your answers were mostly a with a few d's thrown in, you might be a bur oak or a white oak, which are similar to red oaks but with more irregular leaves.

b) You're a weeping willow. You're sensitive and kind, and you love helping other people, even when that means putting their needs ahead of your own. Make sure you take care of yourself, too!

Weeping willow trees have slender branches and long, feather-looking leaves that some butterfly larvae use as food. They often grow along bodies of water. The leaves and bark of the willow have long been used as medicine, since they contain a substance called salicylic acid, a very early version of aspirin.

c) You're a black walnut. You might be popular and attractive, but remember that kindness and trust are important, too. When you're dealing with your peers, try to take a quick time-out to think about how you'd like to be treated if you were in the other person's shoes.

Black walnuts are attractive trees whose fruits (nuts) ripen in the fall and can be used as food. Black walnut trees are demanding and require a good amount of light. Parts of the black walnut tree, including the roots, give off a poison substance called juglone that can inhibit or kill other plants growing nearby.

d) You're a sugar maple. You're sweet, energetic, fluttery, and creative, even if you do seem a little bit scattered sometimes. Just make sure you can focus all that positive energy when you need to get something accomplished!

Sugar maples are deciduous trees whose leaves turn bright red, orange, and yellow in the fall. Sugar maple leaves often color unevenly, so you might see four or five different colors on a tree at once. Sugar maples are an important part of the New England, New York, and Canadian economy thanks to their sap, which is boiled down into sweet maple syrup in the spring.

e) You're a European Mountain Ash. You're one of those people who always seems to look fantastic, even when you've just woken up. But that's no accident - you take

great pride in your appearance and know it's a reflection of who you are. Just be careful not to go overboard; what's inside matters even more.

The European Mountain Ash is an ornamental tree known for its clusters of white flowers in spring and its showy display of orange-red berry clusters in early autumn. It is not tolerant of heat or drought and requires pruning to stay in good condition.

f) You're an American Beech. You are one tough cookie, and when you get your mind set on something, look out! Your determination and courage are impressive. Just remember that nobody is tough all the time, so don't be afraid to give yourself a break.

The American Beech tree is a shade-tolerant species with tough leathery leaves. If you walk in the woods in the winter, you'll often see brown beech leaves still clinging to their branches long after the other leaves have fallen. The wood of the American beech is tough, strong, and heavy and was so difficult to cut that loggers in the days before chain saws often left it alone.