

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

TAKE-HOME

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. “Be the Best of Whatever You Are”

by Douglas Malloch

If you can't be a pine on the top of the hill

Be a scrub in the valley—but be

The best little scrub by the side of the rill;

Be a bush if you can't be a tree.

If you can't be a bush be a bit of the grass,

And some highway some happier make;

If you can't be a muskie then just be a bass—

But the liveliest bass in the lake!

We can't all be captains, we've got to be crew,

There's something for all of us here.

There's big work to do and there's lesser to do,

And the task we must do is the near.

If you can't be a highway then just be a trail,

If you can't be the sun be a star;

It isn't by size that you win or you fail—

Be the best of whatever you are!

**Word Count: 148**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

QUESTIONS

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

## Comprehension Questions

### “Be the Best of Whatever You Are”

*Assess each student’s comprehension of the selection by asking him or her to respond orally to the following questions one on one with you:*

1. **Literal** If you can’t be a tree, what should you be?  
» a bush
2. **Inferential** What does it mean that we can’t all be captains, we’ve got to be the crew?  
» Not everyone can be in charge and do the big work; people are needed to do the lesser work too, which helps the captain and helps the big work.
3. **Evaluative** What is the message in this poem?  
» The message is that no matter who or what you are, be the best you can be of that.