

The Forest Feast of Midwinter

Learning objective: To develop retrieval, inference, and evaluative reading skills through a narrative text.

Read the story carefully and answer the questions below. Ensure you use full sentences and refer back to the text to support your ideas.

As the midwinter solstice approached, the Great Oak in the heart of the Whispering Woods became a hive of activity. Leo the lion, with his golden mane shimmering under the moonlight, orchestrated the annual feast. He invited all the creatures of the forest to bring a gift to share. Max the monkey arrived carrying a basket of shiny, red apples, his tail twitching with excitement as he calculated exactly how to divide them fairly among the guests. Meanwhile, Pip the caterpillar busied himself decorating the low branches with glowing berries, ensuring every tiny detail looked perfect. The air was thick with the scent of pine and the sound of shared laughter. When Nova the owl swooped down from the starlit sky, she brought a collection of shimmering icicles that acted like natural lanterns. As they gathered around the feast, they did not just share food; they shared stories of the year gone by. Under the watchful gaze of the moon, the forest community felt a sense of unity that warmed them more than any fire ever could, proving that the true spirit of the season was found in kindness.

Word bank: festive · starlit · generosity · gleaming · harmonious · tradition

1. What two items did Max and Nova bring to the feast? (2 marks)

2. Where does the story take place and what are the creatures celebrating? (2 marks)

3. Why might Max be the best character to help distribute the food at the feast? (2 marks)

4. How does the author show that the animals feel happy and peaceful in this setting? (2 marks)

5. Do you think the animals would have enjoyed the feast as much if they had not shared stories? Justify your answer. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene showing the animals gathered under the Great Oak. Include Leo, Max, Pip, and Nova, and show how the forest looks during the midwinter feast.



Extension challenge: Explain why Leo's role as a leader is important for the success of the feast. Compare the animals' method of celebration to human traditions you know. What might happen if a new animal arrived who was not invited? Write a short paragraph describing how the group would respond.