

The Weaver of Whispered Tales

Learning objective: To develop comprehension skills through retrieval, inference, and evaluative reasoning based on a narrative text.

Read the text carefully, then answer the questions below. Use your best handwriting and full sentences for the longer answers.

In the heart of the Whispering Woods, Ellie the elephant sat beneath the ancient Silver Birch, holding a worn, leather-bound journal. Ellie was the forest's official storyteller. Every evening, as the sun dipped behind the horizon, she carefully opened her book to weave tales for the younger animals. She did not simply read; she performed. With a gentle trunk, she would trace the patterns of the stars, turning simple fables into vivid, living tapestries of sound and colour.

One breezy Tuesday, Max the monkey arrived, clutching a handful of acorns he had gathered. 'Tell us a story about bravery,' he chattered, his eyes wide with anticipation. Ellie smiled, her memory spanning decades of forest history. She began a tale about a tiny, persistent squirrel who saved the harvest from a storm. The animals gathered in a silent circle, hanging on every word. For Ellie, stories were more than just entertainment; they were the golden threads that held the community together, reminding everyone that even the smallest creature could change the course of history through courage and kindness.

Word bank: meticulous · tapestry · fable · narrative · enchanted · persistent

1. What specific item does Ellie hold while she is telling her stories, and where does she sit? (2 marks)

2. Identify two actions Ellie performs to make her storytelling feel like a 'vivid, living' experience for her audience. (2 marks)

3. Why does Max bring acorns to the storytelling session? What does this tell you about the relationship between the animals? (3 marks)

4. Explain why the author describes stories as 'golden threads that held the community together'. (3 marks)

5. Do you think Ellie is a good storyteller? Justify your answer using evidence from the text. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene of the Whispering Woods with Ellie the elephant in the centre, surrounded by the other animals, using your imagination to show what the 'vivid, living tapestry' of her story might look like in the air.



Extension challenge: Compare and contrast the impact of oral storytelling (like Ellie's) with reading a book alone. Justify which method you believe is more effective for learning a moral lesson and explain what might happen if stories were never shared at all.