

The Golden Apple Dilemma

Learning objective: To explore moral questions and consider the consequences of our choices in everyday life.

Read the story of Nova and Max carefully. Think about how their choices affect others before answering the questions below.

In the heart of the Whispering Woods, Nova the owl and Max the monkey discovered a beautiful, shiny apple lying on the forest path. It was the only fruit left on the tree after a long, dry summer. Max, whose tummy was rumbling, immediately reached for it. 'I found it first!' he cheered. Nova tilted her head, her amber eyes thoughtful. 'Wait, Max,' she hooted softly. 'Do you remember that the squirrel family has been struggling to find food all week? If we take this apple, they will have nothing for their dinner. If we leave it, they will have a feast.' Max looked at the apple, then back at the forest. He wanted the treat, but he also felt a twinge of guilt. He imagined the small squirrels searching the branches in vain. The forest was quiet as they stood together, weighing their own hunger against the needs of their neighbours. It was a classic moral dilemma. Max sighed, his shoulders dropping, and carefully placed the apple back into the hollow of the tree where the squirrels would surely spot it on their way home.

Word bank: dilemma · consequence · integrity · honesty · moral · responsibility

1. Where did Nova and Max find the apple, and why was the apple special? (2 marks)

2. What reason did Nova give for wanting to leave the apple for the squirrels? (2 marks)

3. How did Max feel about the apple at the beginning of the story compared to the end? (2 marks)

4. Why might Nova have waited to speak before Max took the apple? (2 marks)

5. Do you agree with Max's final decision to leave the apple? Justify your answer using evidence from the text. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Nova and Max standing by the apple tree. Show the apple in the hollow and reflect how Max and Nova might be feeling in their expressions.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are Max. Write a diary entry explaining why you chose to give up your snack. Use at least two words from the word bank and explain what you think 'integrity' means in this situation.