

A Snowy Surprise for the Forest Friends

Learning objective: To develop reading comprehension skills by retrieving information, making inferences, and evaluating character motivation within a narrative text.

Read the story carefully and answer the questions using full sentences. Pay close attention to the details provided about the characters and their actions.

The snow fell softly over the Silver Pine Forest, coating the branches in a thick, white blanket. Leo the lion, usually the leader of their group adventures, paced excitedly near the clearing. He had organised a secret festive gathering for all his friends. He spent his last £12.50 of pocket money on lanterns and ribbons to decorate the ancient oak tree.

'Do you think they will like it?' Leo whispered to himself, his mane dusted with frost. Just then, Pip the caterpillar crawled out from a cosy burrow, shivering slightly, followed by Nova the owl who had been busy stargazing. When they saw the tree, lit by golden lanterns, they gasped in delight. Max the monkey arrived shortly after, immediately trying to calculate how many branches had been decorated with ribbons. The forest felt warm and magical, despite the biting cold. Leo felt a surge of pride; he hadn't just bought decorations, he had created a moment of true togetherness. As they huddled together, the friends shared stories, proving that the best gifts were not found in shops, but in the kindness of friends.

Word bank: festive · generosity · tethered · glimmering · anticipation · communal

1. How much money did Leo spend on the decorations for the tree? (1 mark)

2. Which three friends are mentioned as arriving at the clearing to see the tree? (1 mark)

3. Why do you think Leo was pacing near the clearing before his friends arrived? (2 marks)

4. Based on the text, why might Max be counting the branches with ribbons? (2 marks)

5. Do you agree with the story's message that the best gifts are not found in shops? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of the Silver Pine Forest clearing at night, showing the ancient oak tree decorated with golden lanterns and ribbons, with Leo, Pip, Nova, and Max standing around it.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are one of the other characters, such as Finn or Zara. Write a short diary entry describing your reaction when you first saw the decorated tree in the forest.