

A Winter Celebration at the Forest Clearing

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

Read the passage below carefully. Answer the questions in full sentences, using evidence from the text where possible.

As the winter solstice approached, the Great Forest Clearing buzzed with excitement. Leo the lion had organized the annual Winter Gathering, a time when all the animals shared what they had gathered during the harvest. Max the monkey spent hours calculating exactly how many nuts and berries were needed to ensure every creature had a fair share, while Zara the zebra decorated the central oak tree with dried orange slices and ribbons of woven grass.

'It is not about the feast alone,' Leo announced, his voice gentle and warm. 'It is about the spirit of kindness we show to one another.' Ellie the elephant arrived carrying a heavy bundle of books to share, reminding everyone of the stories they had collected throughout the year. Even the smallest creatures brought gifts; a group of field mice presented a tiny, handmade wreath of holly. As the moon rose, the animals shared a meal that cost exactly £12.50 to prepare using their pooled resources. Under the starry sky, they celebrated the joy of friendship and the promise of the coming spring, feeling grateful for their vibrant community.

Word bank: festive · tradition · generosity · community · evergreen · decoration

1. What two items did Zara the zebra use to decorate the central oak tree? (2 marks)

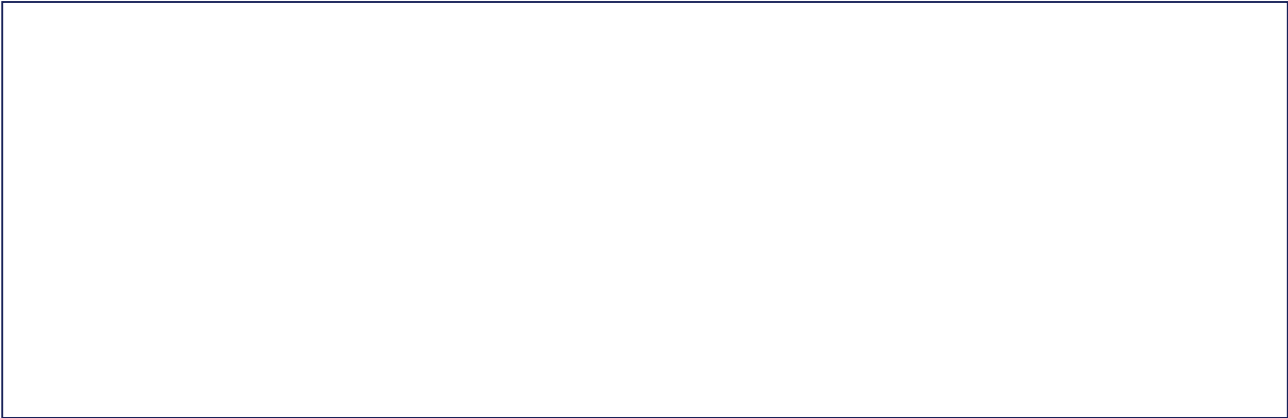
2. How much did the feast cost to prepare for the animals? (1 mark)

3. Why do you think Leo the lion emphasised that the gathering was 'not about the feast alone'? (2 marks)

4. Based on the text, what does Ellie the elephant value most during the celebration? (2 marks)

5. Do you think the animals are a supportive community? Use an example from the text to justify your opinion. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of the Great Forest Clearing at night, showing the decorated oak tree, the animals gathered together, and the moon shining above.



Extension challenge: Write a short poem, in the style of Leo the lion, about the importance of sharing with your friends during the festive season.