

The Weaver of Winter Tales

Learning objective: To develop reading comprehension skills including retrieval, inference, and evaluative reasoning through a festive narrative.

Read the passage carefully. Use the word bank to help you understand the richer vocabulary. Answer the questions in full sentences, ensuring you justify your opinions where requested.

As the winter solstice approached, Leo the lion sat in his cosy den, surrounded by rolls of shimmering parchment. While the world outside was cloaked in a glistening blanket of frost, Leo was preparing for the annual forest feast. He was not just a leader; he was the Weaver of Winter Tales. Each year, he gathered the animals to share stories that celebrated resilience and kindness. This year, he penned a poem about a small seed that waited patiently beneath the frozen soil for the first touch of spring. To fund the feast, the animals had pooled their savings. Max the monkey had meticulously calculated that they needed £45.50 for supplies, including fresh berries and nuts. Despite the biting cold, the atmosphere was thick with joyous anticipation. Leo believed that the true spirit of the season was found not in grand gifts, but in the warmth of shared memories. As he finished his poem, he looked out at the darkening sky, knowing that his words would provide more comfort than any physical present. The forest was ready to welcome the turning of the year with open hearts.

Word bank: solstice · tapestry · glistening · festivity · resilience

1. How much money did Max the monkey calculate was required for the feast supplies? (1 mark)

2. What specific task is Leo responsible for during the winter celebration? (1 mark)

3. Why might the animals have chosen to pool their money rather than giving individual gifts? (2 marks)

4. Explain why Leo chose to write a poem about a seed waiting for spring during the winter solstice. (2 marks)

5. Do you agree with Leo that shared memories are more valuable than physical presents? Justify your answer. (3 marks)

Draw: Illustrate the inside of Leo's den. Include the shimmering parchment, a small seed, and the cosy atmosphere described in the story.



Extension challenge: Compare and contrast Leo's view of the festive season with a traditional view of gift-giving. If you were in the forest, what kind of 'winter tale' would you weave to inspire your friends, and why?