

The Forest Feast: A Winter Tale

Learning objective: To develop reading comprehension skills by identifying key themes, character motivations, and descriptive language in a narrative.

Read the story below carefully. Answer the questions in full sentences using evidence from the text to support your ideas.

The midwinter sun dipped low over the Frosty Fern Woods, casting long, purple shadows across the snow. Pip the caterpillar, wrapped in a tiny, hand-knitted scarf, was busy organising a feast. 'Everyone must have a place at the table!' Pip chirped, dragging a shiny holly berry toward the log stump. Max the monkey arrived, carrying a basket of nuts he had carefully counted into piles of ten. 'I've calculated that we have enough for everyone to have exactly eight walnuts each,' Max declared with a grin. Suddenly, the trees began to sparkle as Zara the zebra emerged from the clearing. She had decorated the branches with pinecones painted in brilliant colours. The friends worked together, turning the quiet, cold woods into a warm, glowing space. As the moon rose, they shared their food, realising that the best part of the season wasn't the feast itself, but the joy of sharing it with friends.

Word bank: festive · generosity · gleaming · midwinter · triumph · cozy

1. How does the author describe the setting of the story at the beginning? Use two adjectives from the text. (2 marks)

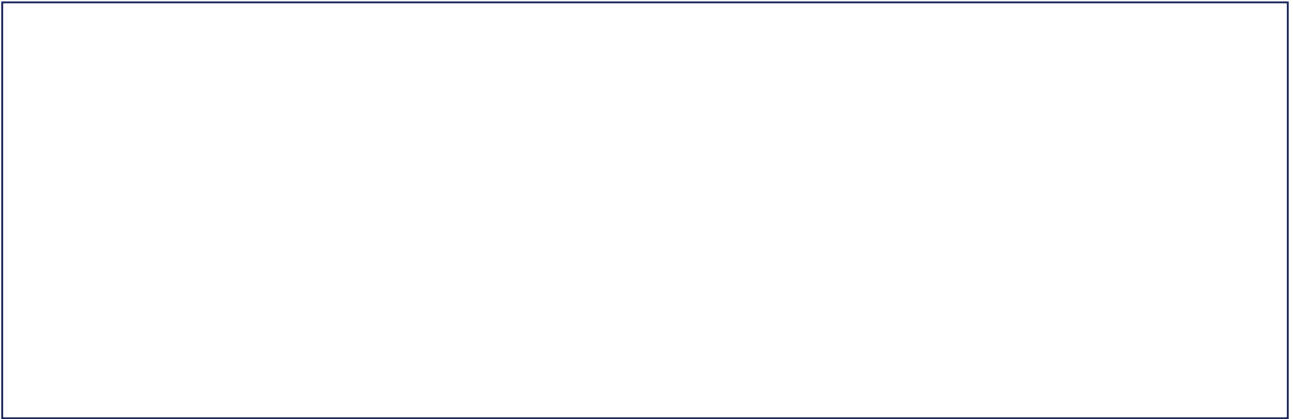
2. Why is Max the monkey's contribution to the feast important to him? (2 marks)

3. In your own words, describe how Zara helps to make the forest feel more festive. (2 marks)

4. Find and copy a sentence that shows the characters are working together as a team. (2 marks)

5. What is the main message or 'moral' of this story? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw your own version of the Frosty Fern Woods feast. Include Pip's holly berries, Max's piles of nuts, and Zara's colourful pinecones.



Extension challenge: Write a short diary entry from the perspective of Pip the caterpillar, explaining how you felt when the moon rose and the friends finally sat down to eat.