

The Forest Feast: A Winter Tale

Learning objective: To demonstrate reading comprehension and inferential skills by analysing a narrative text.

Read the story below carefully and answer the questions that follow using full sentences. Pay close attention to the adjectives and emotions described.

Snow dusted the branches of the Great Oak as the forest animals prepared for their annual winter gathering. Pip the caterpillar was busy wrapping tiny gifts in shimmering silver leaves, while Leo the lion gathered logs for a crackling fire. The air smelled of roasted chestnuts and pine needles. Max the monkey arrived, carefully balancing a tray of treats. 'I have calculated that we have enough berries for everyone to have four each,' Max announced, his eyes sparkling with delight. As the moon rose high, the friends began their festive feast. They huddled together, sharing stories of the year gone by. It was not the food or the gifts that made the night special, but the warm feeling of friendship that glowed brighter than any lantern in the snow.

Word bank: festive · generous · shimmering · huddle · tradition · magnificent

1. How did the animals prepare for the winter gathering? Give two examples from the text. (2 marks)

2. Why did Max the monkey feel delighted when he arrived at the feast? (2 marks)

3. What does the phrase 'glowed brighter than any lantern' suggest about the friends' feelings? (2 marks)

4. Find and copy an adjective from the text that describes the gifts Pip was wrapping. (1 mark)

5. Based on the text, what is the most important part of the winter gathering for the group of friends? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene of the animals sitting around the fire. Include at least three of the characters mentioned in the story and show the festive atmosphere described.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph (3-5 sentences) describing what gift Pip the caterpillar might give to Leo the lion, and explain why Leo would enjoy it.