

The Christmas Eve Adventure with Pip and Leo

Learning objective: To develop reading comprehension skills by identifying key details and inferring character feelings in a narrative text.

Read the story about Pip the caterpillar and Leo the lion preparing for a festive evening. Answer the questions below in full sentences, then use the drawing prompt to illustrate the final scene.

Outside, the snow fell softly, covering the forest in a blanket of white. Inside their cosy treehouse, Pip the caterpillar was busy hanging silver tinsel, while Leo the lion carefully placed a golden star atop their small, fragrant pine tree. It was Christmas Eve, a special time when the friends always shared a feast of dried berries and honey cakes. 'Do you think everyone is ready for tomorrow?' Pip asked, his voice full of excitement. Leo smiled, his mane glowing in the light of the crackling fire. 'Every creature in our woods has a role to play, Pip. We have shared our extra blankets with the hedgehogs and delivered parcels of seeds to the birds. Giving is the heart of our tradition.' They sat by the hearth, watching the embers glow, feeling the warm comfort of a job well done.

Word bank: festive · generous · twinkling · hearth · tradition · anticipation

1. Why was Pip feeling excited in the story? (2 marks)

2. What does Leo believe is the 'heart of our tradition'? Explain what this means in your own words. (2 marks)

3. Find and copy two adjectives from the text that describe the setting. (2 marks)

4. How did Pip and Leo show kindness to the other animals in the forest? (2 marks)

5. Do you think Pip and Leo are good friends? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of the inside of the treehouse. Include Pip the caterpillar hanging tinsel, Leo the lion placing the star on the tree, and the warm, glowing hearth mentioned in the story.



Extension challenge: Write a short diary entry from the perspective of either Pip or Leo, explaining what you are most looking forward to doing on Christmas morning.