

# The Springtime Celebration: A Story of Renewal

*Learning objective: To demonstrate reading comprehension by identifying key themes and sequences within a traditional seasonal story.*

Read the short story below carefully. Answer the questions in full sentences, using evidence from the text where possible. Remember to check your spelling and punctuation.

In the heart of the ancient forest, Ellie the elephant and her friends gathered to celebrate the arrival of spring. As the snow melted and the first green shoots appeared, Ellie shared a story about the changing seasons. She explained that for many, this time of year represents a period of reflection and new beginnings. The animals spent the day preparing for a feast, decorating the meadow with colourful patterns inspired by Zara the zebra's artwork. They painted hollowed-out gourds with bright dyes to represent the eggs of life, a tradition passed down through generations. As the sun set, the animals sat together, appreciating the warmth of the returning sun and the strength of their friendship. It was a time to let go of the cold winter and look forward to the growth that the new season would bring.

*Word bank: tradition · renewal · journey · symbol · reflection · community*

**1. According to the text, why is the arrival of spring considered a time of 'new beginnings'? (2 marks)**

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**2. How did the animals use Zara the zebra's skills to help prepare for their celebration? (2 marks)**

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**3. What do the painted gourds represent in the story, and why are they important? (2 marks)**

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**4. Find and copy one phrase from the text that describes how the weather has changed. (1 mark)**

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**5. Why do you think the animals chose to sit together at the end of the day? (2 marks)**

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**Draw:** Draw a scene from the meadow showing how the animals decorated for the celebration, including the colourful patterns inspired by Zara.



*Extension challenge: Write a short poem of four lines about what 'renewal' means to you. Think about the changes you see in your garden or local park during the spring.*