

# Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Details & Examples

Read the short story and answer each question.



## The Echo Tree

When Malik first moved to the countryside, he missed the city noise—the distant car horns, the hum of people, the rush of footsteps on concrete. The silence here felt loud in its own strange way.

Then, one afternoon, he wandered behind his new home and discovered something unexpected. At the edge of a hill stood a giant tree with a twisted trunk and wide, sheltering branches. As Malik stepped closer, the wind rustled the leaves in a rhythm that almost sounded like whispers.

He returned the next day. "I don't really like it here," he muttered aloud. To his surprise, the wind answered with a soft rustle, like it was listening.

Malik started visiting the tree every day. He'd talk about school, the kids who didn't talk to him, the basketball court he missed. The tree never responded with words, but the way its branches swayed or its leaves shimmered in the sunlight made Malik feel like he wasn't so alone.

One rainy Saturday, Malik stood under the tree and said, "Maybe this place isn't so bad." The wind blew gently, and a leaf floated down and landed on his shoulder.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Echo Tree

1. What does the tree represent for Malik in the story?

- A. A place of comfort and connection during a difficult time
- B. A problem he needs to solve
- C. A sports field he used to play on
- D. A memory from his old school

2. What can you infer about how Malik feels by the end of the story?

- A. He is beginning to feel more at peace with his new home
- B. He plans to move back to the city
- C. He still refuses to make new friends
- D. He wants to cut the tree down

3. Fill in the blank:

Malik visited the tree every day and talked about the things he \_\_\_\_\_.

4. How does the author use the tree's behavior (rustling, shimmering, etc.) to help show how Malik is feeling?

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5. What specific details show how Malik's attitude about his new home changes from the beginning to the end?

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# Parent and Teacher Guide

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**Guide Reading Level:** Q

**Lexile Level:** 735L-885L

**Grade Level:** 4th Grade, Beginning of the Year

**Genre:** Realistic Fiction

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## Introducing the Text

"Today we're reading a story about a boy who finds something unexpected in his new backyard. As we read, we'll use specific details to help us figure out what the text says—and what it's trying to say beneath the surface. That's called *making inferences*."

**Vocabulary:** countryside, shimmered, rustled, connection, unexpected

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## Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do you think is hardest about moving to a new place?
  2. Have you ever had a special place where you liked to think or talk?
  3. Why might an author include a character who talks to something that doesn't talk back?
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## During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What clues show how Malik feels about moving?
  2. How does the tree's movement seem to "respond" to Malik?
  3. What words or actions show his mood changing?
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## After Reading Discussion Questions

1. Why is the tree important to the story's theme?
  2. How does the author use details to show both sadness and comfort?
  3. What can we infer about how Malik will feel about his new home in the future?
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## Activity Idea

Ask students to write a short story about a character who finds comfort in something unusual—like an old object, an animal, or a place. Encourage them to include descriptive language and subtle details that show what their character is feeling without saying it outright.

