

Reading Comprehension Exercise 1

Middle Primary Advance English

The Woodpecker Who Saved Happyville



It used to be a happy town. It was called Happyville for a reason. Everyone who lived in Happyville was always full of joy. Nothing was able to rob the people of the happiness that was in their hearts. You could hear people singing and humming cheerfully as they went about their business.

Then came the witch of darkness. She hated love and happiness. She cast a terrible spell on Happyville. Every smile, laughter, hum and song was taken away and hidden under a tree. In their places, the witch sent grumbles, fights, bickering and insults. Happyville did not have joy any more.

There was a woodpecker that loved to sing. The woodpecker was sad that nobody in Happyville sang along with him any more. He was determined to help Happyville become what it was previously. The woodpecker hid in the forest for many days without food or water. Finally, the witch appeared. She went to the tall birch tree in the middle of the woods.

"Lo and behold! One more giggle to go!" She seemed to be knocking something into the tree with her broom. "Ha, ha! Keep all that joy under lock and key!" With that, she flew off, chuckling wickedly.

As soon as the witch was gone, the woodpecker flew to the birch tree and started pecking at the trunk. For three days and three nights, the woodpecker kept at it. Finally, he made a hole large enough for all the smiles, laughter and joy to come rushing out.

There was a big celebration in Happyville. The air was filled with joyful singing and happy laughter once again.



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Questions:

1 Why was the town called Happyville at the beginning of the story?

2 What did the witch of darkness do to the town?

3 Why was the woodpecker sad?

4 How did the woodpecker free the joy from the tree?

5 What happened in Happyville after the joy was released?

6 The people of Happyville were always joyful before the witch came. (True / False)

7 The witch loved happiness and wanted everyone to sing more. (True / False)

8 The woodpecker gave up after one night of pecking at the tree. (True / False)

9 The witch locked the joy inside a tall birch tree. (True / False)



Reading Comprehension Exercise 1 - Solutions

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Questions:

1 Why was the town called Happyville at the beginning of the story?

This is because the people who lived there were always joyful, singing, and cheerful.

2 What did the witch of darkness do to the town?

She cast a spell that took away all the joy, smiles, and songs, and replaced them with grumbles and fights

3 Why was the woodpecker sad?

He was sad because no one in Happyville sang along with him anymore.

4 How did the woodpecker free the joy from the tree?

He pecked at the birch tree for three days and nights until he made a hole big enough for the joy to escape.

5 What happened in Happyville after the joy was released?

There was a big celebration with singing and laughter filling the air again.

6 The people of Happyville were always joyful before the witch came. (True / False) ✓

7 The witch loved happiness and wanted everyone to sing more. (True / False) ✓

8 The woodpecker gave up after one night of pecking at the tree. (True / False) ✓

9 The witch locked the joy inside a tall birch tree. (True / False) ✓