Thistledown Lane

# A Den for Sorrel: Reading Comprehension

**KS1 · Year 1 and Year 2**

**Free · with answers**



- Year 1: a short retelling and 6 questions
- Year 2: the whole story and 9 questions, with reading domains
- Answers for both, and a mark scheme for Year 2

Watch the episode free at **thistledownlane.co.uk/episode-a-den-for-sorrel**

A gentle claymation series about kindness, friendship and the seasons on an English country lane.

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# For grown-ups

## How to use this pack

Two levels from the same story. **Year 1** is a short retelling with picture-friendly questions: tick, order and true or false. **Year 2** is the whole story as told in the episode, with questions tagged by KS1 reading content domain (1a to 1e) and a mark scheme. You can watch the episode together first, read it aloud, or use it as an independent reading task.

## KS1 reading content domains

- **1a** draw on knowledge of vocabulary to understand texts
- **1b** identify and explain key aspects of texts, such as characters, events and information
- **1c** identify and explain the sequence of events in texts
- **1d** make inferences from the text
- **1e** predict what might happen on the basis of what has been read so far

## The story

Sorrel the fox cub has nowhere to sleep, so the friends set out to build him a den of his very own.

## The lesson

**A home isn't the sticks, or the leaves, or even the blanket. It's who helped you build it.**

## Curriculum links

English, Year 1 and Year 2 reading comprehension: listening to and discussing stories, discussing word meanings, predicting, making inferences and checking the text makes sense. PSHE: homes and belonging, sharing, working together.

# Year 1: A Den for Sorrel

Name: _____





Sorrel came down the wall with leaves all over his back. He had slept in a scratchy hedge. Sorrel did not have a home of his own.

“We’ll build you one,” said Bramble. Mam told them to build it on the hedge path, by the big mossy stone. The hedge keeps the wind off.

Bramble gave her old blue blanket for inside. Lilly fetched sticks, and more sticks, and more sticks!

Bramble leaned the sticks together like a tent. Moss tucked soft green moss into every gap. Then they put big golden leaves on top.

Bramble put the blanket inside. “Sorrel, it’s yours,” she said. Sorrel looked at it for a long time. “Nobody’s ever made me anything before,” he said.

That night, the rain came. In the morning, the friends ran down to the den. A sleepy orange face poked out. Sorrel was dry and warm! He said it was better than a castle.

# Year 1 questions

Name: _____

**1** Where had Sorrel slept last night?

☐ in a bed ☐ in a scratchy hedge ☐ in a tree

**2** What did Bramble give for inside the den?

☐ her old blue blanket ☐ a pillow ☐ a honey bun

**3** Who fetched the sticks?

☐ Mam ☐ Old Wren ☐ Lilly

**4** What did Moss tuck into the gaps?

☐ feathers ☐ soft green moss ☐ sand

**5** Put these in order. Write 1, 2 and 3 in the boxes.

☐ It rained in the night.

☐ Lilly fetched sticks.

☐ Sorrel came down the wall with leaves on his back.

**6** True or false?

The den was by the big mossy stone. **True** ☐ **False** ☐

Sorrel got wet in the night. **True** ☐ **False** ☐

Sorrel said the den was better than a castle. **True** ☐ **False** ☐

# Year 2: A Den for Sorrel

Name: _____





It was a breezy morning on Thistledown Lane, and Sorrel came trotting down the wall with leaves stuck all over his back. “Sorrel, you’ve got half a hedge on you,” said Moss. “I slept in it. It was a very scratchy hedge,” said Sorrel.

“Where did you sleep the night before?” “In a different hedge. That one had a hedgehog in it. Not you. A cross one,” said Sorrel. “And the night before that?” said Lilly. “Under a wheelbarrow. It was lovely until it rained.” “Sorrel. Haven’t you got a home?” said Bramble. “I’ve got lots of homes. They just keep being somebody else’s.”

And Bramble looked at Moss, and Moss looked at Lilly, and they all had exactly the same idea at exactly the same time. “We’ll build you one,” said Bramble.

First, they went to ask Mam, because Mam always knows how things are built. “A den? Well. You’ll want it somewhere sheltered. Out of the wind, and where the rain runs off,” said Mam. “Where’s that?” said Moss. “The hedge path. By the big mossy stone. The hedge keeps the wind off, and the ground slopes away.”

“And it’ll need something soft inside.” Bramble went to the cupboard, and came back with her own old blue blanket, the one with the patch on the corner. “Your baby blanket? Are you sure, my love?” said Mam. “I’m too big for it. Sorrel’s exactly the right size,” said Bramble. So they went down to the hedge path, beside the big mossy stone, and they began.

Lilly fetched sticks. And more sticks. And more sticks than anybody could possibly use. “Is this enough?” said Lilly. “Lilly, that’s enough for a castle,” said Moss. “Sorrel might want a castle.” “I would quite like a castle,” said Sorrel.

Bramble leaned the sticks together against the hedge, in a little pointed shape, like a tent. And Moss tucked soft green moss into every gap, so the wind couldn’t get in. “It’s called moss. Like me. That’s why I’m good at it,” said Moss. Then they laid big golden leaves on top, one over the other, like the tiles on Mam’s roof.

Old Wren flew down to the hedge to have a look. “Hmm. Leaves overlapping, top to bottom. That’s how a bird does a nest. Who taught you that?” said Old Wren. “Mam,” said Bramble. “Then it’ll hold.”

And last of all, Bramble laid her blue blanket inside, and smoothed it flat. “There. Sorrel, it’s yours,” said Bramble. Sorrel stood and looked at it for a long time. “Nobody’s ever made me anything before,” said Sorrel. “Well, now somebody has. Four somebodies,” said Moss. “Five. I did the inspecting,” said Old Wren.

That night, the rain came. It pattered on the leaves of Thistledown Lane, and on the round door of Mam’s kitchen. Bramble lay awake in bed, listening to it. “Mam? Do you think the den will hold?” said Bramble. “Did you overlap the leaves like I told you?” said Mam. “Top to bottom.” “Then go to sleep, my love. It’ll hold.”

In the morning, the whole lane was shiny and wet. And four friends ran all the way down to the hedge path. “Sorrel? Sorrel, are you all right?” said Moss. For a moment there was no answer. And then a small, sleepy, orange face poked out of the den. “Good morning. I’ve been dry all night. Dry and warm and blanketed,” said Sorrel.

“It held! The castle held!” “It’s not a castle. It’s better than a castle,” said Sorrel. “What’s better than a castle?” said Bramble. “A home that your friends built.” “A home isn’t the sticks, or the leaves, or even the blanket. It’s who helped you build it.” And that’s how Sorrel came to live on Thistledown Lane, in a den by the big mossy stone.





# Year 2 questions

Name: _____

**1** Where did Mam say they should build the den? (1 mark) 1b

**2** Name **two** places where Sorrel had slept before he had a den. (2 marks) 1b

**3** Mam said, "You'll want it somewhere **sheltered**." What does sheltered mean? (1 mark) 1a

☐ kept safe from the wind and rain ☐ high up in a tree ☐ in the middle of a field

**4** Find and copy **one** word that tells you what the lane looked like on the morning after the rain. (1 mark) 1a

**5** Number these events from 1 to 4. (1 mark) 1c

☐ Bramble lays the blue blanket inside.

☐ Old Wren flies down to look at the den.

☐ Lilly fetches sticks.

☐ Sorrel pokes his face out of the den in the morning.

**6** Sorrel said, "I've got lots of homes. They just keep being somebody else's." What did he mean? (1 mark) 1d

**7** Sorrel "stood and looked at it for a long time." How do you think he felt? Why? (1 mark) 1d

**8** Old Wren said, "Then it'll hold." Why was he sure the den would keep the rain out? (1 mark) 1d

**9** What do you think will happen to Sorrel the next time it rains? Use the story to explain. (1 mark) 1e

# Answers

## Year 1

1. in a scratchy hedge
2. her old blue blanket
3. Lilly
4. soft green moss
5. 1 Sorrel came down the wall with leaves on his back. 2 Lilly fetched sticks. 3 It rained in the night.
6. True; False (he was dry and warm all night); True

## Year 2 (total 10 marks)

1. On the hedge path, by the big mossy stone.
2. Any two, 1 mark each: in a scratchy hedge; in a different hedge (with a cross hedgehog in it); under a wheelbarrow.
3. kept safe from the wind and rain
4. shiny (accept: wet)
5. Lilly fetches sticks (1); Old Wren flies down to look at the den (2); Bramble lays the blue blanket inside (3); Sorrel pokes his face out of the den in the morning (4).
6. He kept sleeping in places that belonged to other animals or other people, like a hedge with a hedgehog in it, so he had no home of his own.
7. Happy, surprised or touched, because nobody had ever made him anything before. ("Nobody's ever made me anything before.")
8. The leaves overlapped, top to bottom, the way a bird does a nest. Mam had taught them how to do it.
9. Any sensible answer linked to the story, for example: he will stay dry and warm in his den, because it held the last time it rained.