Thistledown Lane

Barnaby Digs Deep: 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-barnaby-digs-deep**

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

Lilly has lost her best acorn under a lot of little stones. Maybe Barnaby the muddy badger can help. Dig, dig, diggity!

The lesson

Don't judge someone by how they look. Everybody is good at something.

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: kindness, first impressions, saying sorry.

Year 1: Barnaby Digs Deep

Name: _____





Lilly the squirrel had lost her best acorn. She had buried it and put a little stone on top. But there were lots and lots of little stones! Which one was it?

Bramble, Moss and Lilly went to the woods. There were holes all over the ground. Out popped a badger with a muddy nose. His name was Barnaby.

“He’s all muddy and messy,” said Lilly. Barnaby heard her. His ears went down, and he hurried away.

Lilly felt bad. “I didn’t mean it,” she said. They went after him. Barnaby showed them his sett. That is a badger’s house. He had dug it all by himself.

Barnaby helped them look. He sniffed under the hedge. “Dig, dig, diggity!” They all dug, and they found the acorn under the little stone.

Lilly said sorry to Barnaby. Now they were all a bit muddy! Lilly asked to keep her acorn safe in Barnaby’s pebble room.

Year 1 questions

Name: _____

1 What had Lilly lost?

☐ her beret ☐ her best acorn ☐ a pebble

2 What did Lilly put on top of her acorn?

☐ a stick ☐ a leaf ☐ a little stone

3 What is a badger's house called?

☐ a sett ☐ a nest ☐ a drey

4 How did Barnaby find the acorn?

☐ He saw it. ☐ He sniffed for it. ☐ Old Wren told him.

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

☐ Lilly said sorry.

☐ Lilly said Barnaby was muddy and messy.

☐ They dug up the acorn.

6 True or false?

Barnaby is a badger. **True** ☐ **False** ☐

Barnaby is good at digging. **True** ☐ **False** ☐

The acorn was in the woods. **True** ☐ **False** ☐

Year 2: Barnaby Digs Deep

Name: _____





It was a bright, crisp morning on Thistledown Lane, and Lilly the squirrel had been very, very busy. “It’s here somewhere. I know it’s here somewhere,” said Lilly. “Lilly, what are you looking for?” asked Bramble.

“My acorn! My biggest, best, most beautiful acorn. I buried it for the winter, and now I can’t find it,” said Lilly. “Did you put a little stone on top? Like we said?” asked Moss. “I did! I put a little stone right on top, so I’d remember,” said Lilly.

And Bramble and Moss looked along the lane. There was a little stone by the gate. And a little stone by the wall. And a little stone under the hedge, and another one, and another one. “Lilly… there are a LOT of little stones,” said Moss. “Oh, acorns and conkers,” said Lilly.

“Never mind. Where were you when you buried it?” asked Bramble. “Somewhere between here… and the woods. I think,” said Lilly. “Then let’s start at the woods,” said Bramble.

So off they went, up the lane and into the woods. But when they got there, something very strange was going on. There were holes. Little round holes, all over the woodland floor. “Who made all these?” asked Moss. And then, from behind a tree, came a snuffling, and a scraping, and a little cloud of earth, and out popped a stripy black-and-white face with a very muddy nose.

“Oh! Hello. I didn’t see you there. I was snuffling,” said Barnaby. “Eww. Look at him. He’s all muddy and messy. I bet he’s not very nice,” said Lilly. It was only a little thing to say. But Barnaby heard it, and his ears went down, and he picked up his spade and hurried away into the trees.

“Lilly…” said Moss. “I didn’t mean it. It just came out. Did it sound very unkind?” asked Lilly. “A little bit,” said Bramble.

“Then we have to go after him,” said Lilly.

So they followed the snuffly footprints out of the trees, to a big grassy bank. And in the bank there wasn’t just one doorway. There were lots of them. “Look at all those doors! Who lives in a house with all those doors?” asked Moss. And then, out of the biggest doorway, came a great big bundle of dry grass and old bracken, walking backwards. Underneath it was Barnaby.

“Oh. It’s you again,” said Barnaby. “Hello. I’m Bramble. This is Moss, and this is Lilly,” said Bramble. “I’m Barnaby. Barnaby Badger. This is my sett. That’s what a badger’s house is called,” said Barnaby.

“It’s ever so big,” said Moss. “Barnaby… why are you throwing your bed outside?” asked Lilly. “I’m not throwing it away. I’m airing it. Old bedding gets damp underground. So you drag it out into the sunshine, and you shake it, and you fetch nice fresh grass to go back in. Then it’s cosy and dry for the winter,” said Barnaby.

“Like putting your blanket on the line,” said Moss. “Just like that,” said Barnaby. And then Barnaby showed them his sett. A long tunnel, and a room for sleeping, and a room for the winter, and a room for his collection of shiny pebbles, and a little room that was just for being quiet in.

“You dug all of this? By yourself?” asked Lilly. “Badgers are good at digging. It’s the one thing I’m good at. I’m not good at being tidy,” said Barnaby.

“Barnaby, Lilly’s lost something. Her best acorn. She buried it, and now she can’t find it anywhere,” said Bramble. “Lost something under the ground? Well, why didn’t you say? I’m the best finder-under-the-ground there is. I can smell things, right through the earth,” said Barnaby. “You’d help me? Even after…” said Lilly.

“Even after. Come on. Dig, dig, diggity!” said Barnaby. So back they all went, down from the bank and along to the lane, with Barnaby snuffling in front, nose down, all the way.

Barnaby sniffed by the gate. Barnaby sniffed by the wall. Barnaby sniffed under the hedge, and then he stopped. And his nose went twitch, twitch, twitch. “Here. It’s right here. Ready?” asked Barnaby. “Ready!” said Moss.

“Dig, dig, diggity!” said Barnaby. And everybody joined in. Dig, dig, diggity! And the earth went flying, and there was mud on Barnaby’s nose, and mud on Moss’s tail, and a little bit of mud on Lilly’s beret, and nobody minded at all. And there, under the little stone, was the biggest, best, most beautiful acorn in the whole of Thistledown Lane.

“My acorn! Barnaby, you found it!” said Lilly. “Barnaby, I’m sorry I said you were muddy and messy. That was unkind. You’re the nicest, cleverest badger I ever met.” “That’s alright. I am a bit muddy. But thank you for saying sorry. Nobody’s ever come back to say sorry before,” said Barnaby.

“And now we’re ALL a bit muddy,” said Moss. “Then we’re all badgers today,” said Barnaby. And Lilly decided that this time, she would bury her acorn somewhere she could never forget.

“Barnaby... could I keep it in your pebble room? Just for the winter?” asked Lilly. “It would be the best thing in it,” said Barnaby.

“You can’t tell who someone is just by looking at them. Even if they’re a bit muddy. Everybody’s good at something. You just have to stay long enough to find out,” said Bramble. And that’s how a muddy little badger became the best friend-under-the-ground on Thistledown Lane.





Year 2 questions

Name: _____

1 What did Lilly put on top of her acorn, and why? (1 mark) 1b

2 Barnaby says, "I'm not throwing it away. I'm **airing** it." What does **airing** mean here? (1 mark) 1a

☐ putting it out in the sunshine and fresh air ☐ hiding it under the ground

☐ throwing it in the stream

3 Find and copy **two** words Lilly used about Barnaby when she first saw him. (1 mark) 1a

4 Name **two** rooms in Barnaby's sett. (2 marks) 1b

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

☐ Barnaby sniffs under the hedge.

☐ Lilly says Barnaby is muddy and messy.

☐ Barnaby shows them his sett.

☐ Lilly asks to keep her acorn in the pebble room.

6 How can you tell that Barnaby was upset by what Lilly said? (1 mark) 1d

7 Barnaby said, "Nobody's ever come back to say sorry before." What does this tell you about Barnaby? (1 mark) 1d

8 Why do you think Lilly wanted to keep her acorn in Barnaby's pebble room? (1 mark) 1d

9 Lilly buries lots of acorns for the winter. Do you think she will always remember where they are? Use the story to explain. (1 mark) 1e

Answers

Year 1

1. her best acorn
2. a little stone
3. a sett
4. He sniffed for it.
5. 1 Lilly said Barnaby was muddy and messy. 2 They dug up the acorn. 3 Lilly said sorry.
6. True; True; False (it was under the hedge, in the lane)

Year 2 (total 10 marks)

1. A little stone, so she would remember where it was.
2. putting it out in the sunshine and fresh air
3. muddy, messy (both needed)
4. Any two, 1 mark each: a room for sleeping; a room for the winter; a room for his collection of shiny pebbles; a little room just for being quiet in. (Accept: a long tunnel.)
5. Lilly says Barnaby is muddy and messy (1); Barnaby shows them his sett (2); Barnaby sniffs under the hedge (3); Lilly asks to keep her acorn in the pebble room (4).
6. His ears went down, and he picked up his spade and hurried away into the trees.
7. Any sensible answer, for example: other animals have been unkind to him before; he was pleased and surprised that Lilly said sorry.
8. So she could never forget where it was (she wanted to bury it “somewhere she could never forget”). Accept: so it would be safe.
9. Any sensible answer linked to the story, for example: no, because she put a stone on top of this one and still could not find it, as there were lots of little stones.