Thistledown Lane

Hazel and the Acorn: 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-hazel-and-the-acorn**

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

Hazel the deer fawn wants to be big, right now, on four very wobbly legs. Wibble, wobble... ta-da!

The lesson

Good things take time. You don't have to be grown-up all at once.

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: patience, growing up, trying again.

Year 1: Hazel and the Acorn

Name: _____





Hazel is a young deer. She has four very wobbly legs. She was practising standing still. “Wibble, wobble… ta-da!” Then she sat down, plop!

Hazel wanted to be big, like the big deer. They stand so still and tall. And Hazel wanted to be big today!

In the woods, Lilly was burying acorns. But she could not remember where she put them. She had forgotten them all! “I don’t know,” said Lilly.

Old Wren showed them a tiny oak tree. A squirrel had buried an acorn and forgotten it, and it grew into a tree! “It doesn’t hurry. But it gets there,” said Old Wren.

So Lilly planted an acorn by Hazel’s bracken bed. Now Hazel could see it every morning. They put a stick next to it, so nobody would forget.

Then Hazel tried again. “Wibble… wobble… ta-da!” She stood still for a long time, with no wobbles at all. “I did it!” said Hazel.

Year 1 questions

Name: _____

1 What kind of animal is Hazel?

☐ a rabbit ☐ a deer ☐ a squirrel

2 What colour is Hazel's scarf?

☐ red ☐ purple ☐ sky-blue

3 What did Lilly keep forgetting?

☐ where she buried her acorns ☐ her name ☐ the way home

4 What did Old Wren show them?

☐ a bird's nest ☐ a tiny oak tree ☐ a big stone

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

☐ Hazel stood still with no wobbles.

☐ Hazel sat down in the bracken, plop.

☐ Lilly planted an acorn for Hazel.

6 True or false?

The tiny tree is an oak tree. **True** ☐ **False** ☐

Hazel has four wobbly legs. **True** ☐ **False** ☐

The little tree will be big by tomorrow. **True** ☐ **False** ☐

Year 2: Hazel and the Acorn

Name: _____





At the edge of the woods there was a great big bed of bracken, all gold and brown and crackly. And one morning, Bramble and Moss heard a funny noise coming from inside it. “Wibble... wobble... wibble... ooh!” said Hazel. And out of the bracken came a young deer, with big eyes, and a sky-blue scarf, and four very wobbly legs.

“Hello! Are you alright? Your legs are going all over the place,” said Moss. “Hello! I’m Hazel. I’m practising standing still. Watch. Wibble, wobble... ta-da!” said Hazel. And for a moment, Hazel stood perfectly still. And then she sat down in the bracken, plop.

“Nearly!” said Hazel. “That was very good! ... Why do you need to practise?” asked Bramble. “So I can be big. Like the big deer. They stand so still and so tall, and they don’t wobble at all. I want to be like that. Today,” said Hazel.

“But you’re already the tallest one here. By miles,” said Moss. “I’m the tallest one here. But I’m the smallest deer,” said Hazel.

So Hazel wobbled along with them, into the woods, where Lilly was very, very busy. “Dig. Drop. Pat, pat. Another acorn buried for the winter. Oh! Hello! Who are you?” asked Lilly. “I’m Hazel. Wibble, wobble... ta-da!” said Hazel.

“Ooh, I like that. I’m Lilly. My best acorn is safe at Barnaby’s. These are all the others,” said Lilly. “Lilly, where did you put the first one?” asked Bramble. “The first one? It’s... it’s...” said Lilly.

Lilly looked by the log. Lilly looked by the roots. Lilly looked by a stone that looked exactly like the other stone. “I don’t know. I’ve forgotten,” said Lilly. “What about the one after that?” asked Moss.

“...Forgotten that one too,” said Lilly. “What about the one you just did? Just now?” asked Hazel. “Hmm. Let me think. No. Gone,” said Lilly.

From over by the old tree, somebody chuckled. It was Old Wren, perched on a toadstool. “Forgotten another one, have you, Lilly? Don’t worry. All squirrels do. Come with me. I want to show you something,” said Old Wren. And Old Wren led them to a sunny gap between the trees. And there, all on its own, was a tiny little tree. It had a thin brown stalk, and just a few leaves, and it was no taller than Moss.

“It’s the same size as me!” said Moss. “That is an oak tree. A baby one. A long time ago, a squirrel buried an acorn right here, and forgot all about it. And the acorn stayed in the ground, and it grew,” said Old Wren. “A squirrel forgot it? And it turned into a tree?” asked Lilly.

“Old Wren… why do I always forget where I put them?” asked Lilly. “Well, perhaps the woods want you to. Every acorn a squirrel forgets is a little tree waiting to happen. Half the oaks in these woods were planted by squirrels who forgot,” said Old Wren. “So I’m not forgetful. I’m a tree-planter!” said Lilly.

“When will it be a big tree? Like that one?” asked Hazel. “Oh, not for a long, long time. Years and years and years. It grows a little bit every summer. It doesn’t hurry. But it gets there,” said Old Wren. And Hazel looked at the tiny oak, and then up at the great big oak, and then down at her own four wobbly legs.

“So the little tree doesn’t have to be big today,” said Hazel. “No. It just has to keep growing,” said Old Wren. “Maybe I’m like the little tree. Maybe I’m growing too. Just slowly,” said Hazel.

“You ARE growing. Everybody is. You can’t see it, because it’s so slow,” said Bramble. “Hazel! I know! Let’s plant you a tree. A tree of your very own. Then you can watch it grow, and it can watch you grow,” said Lilly. So back they went to the bracken, Hazel wobbling in front, and Lilly carrying one fat, shiny acorn.

“Here. Right by my bracken bed. Then I’ll see it every single morning,” said Hazel. Lilly dug a little hole, and popped the acorn in, and patted the earth down, pat, pat. And on the top went one golden leaf, to keep it warm. “And we’ll put a stick next to it. So we don’t forget,” said Moss.

“Good idea. I’d definitely forget,” said Lilly. And they stuck a little stick in the ground next to it, so that this time, nobody would forget.

“I’m going to practise again. But not so I can be big today. Just so I can be a bit better than yesterday,” said Hazel. “We’ll count you in. Ready?” asked Bramble. And everybody said it together. Wibble... wobble...

“...ta-da!” said Hazel. And Hazel stood still. And she stayed still. And she stayed still a little bit longer, without a single wobble, which was the longest she had ever, ever stood. “Hazel! You did it!” said Lilly.

“I did it! And I didn’t have to be big at all,” said Hazel. “Told you. It doesn’t hurry. But it gets there,” said Old Wren.

“Good things take time. Like oak trees, and like growing up. You don’t have to be big all at once. You just have to keep growing, a little bit every day,” said Bramble. And that’s how a wobbly little deer planted a tree that might, one day, be the biggest oak in all of Thistledown Woods.





Year 2 questions

Name: _____

1 Why was Hazel practising standing still? (1 mark) 1b

2 Lilly says, "So I'm not **forgetful**. I'm a tree-planter!" What does **forgetful** mean? (1 mark) 1a

☐ very good at digging ☐ often forgets things ☐ always tidy

3 Look at the first page. Find and copy **one** word that tells you what the bracken was like when you touched it or stepped on it. (1 mark) 1a

4 Give **two** places where Lilly looked for her first acorn. (2 marks) 1b

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

☐ Old Wren shows them the tiny oak tree.

☐ Hazel meets Bramble and Moss in the bracken.

☐ Hazel stands still without a single wobble.

☐ Lilly plants an acorn by Hazel's bracken bed.

6 Old Wren says, "Perhaps the woods want you to" forget. What does he mean? (1 mark) 1d

7 Hazel looked at the tiny oak, then up at the great big oak, then down at her own wobbly legs. What was she thinking? (1 mark) 1d

8 At the end, Hazel practises "just so I can be a bit better than yesterday." How has Hazel changed since the start of the story? (1 mark) 1d

9 What do you think will happen to the acorn by Hazel's bracken bed? Use the story to explain. (1 mark) 1e

Answers

Year 1

1. a deer
2. sky-blue
3. where she buried her acorns
4. a tiny oak tree
5. 1 Hazel sat down in the bracken, plop. 2 Lilly planted an acorn for Hazel. 3 Hazel stood still with no wobbles.
6. True; True; False (it will take years and years)

Year 2 (total 10 marks)

1. So she could be big, like the big deer, who stand so still and so tall and don't wobble at all.
2. often forgets things
3. crackly ("all gold and brown and crackly")
4. Any two, 1 mark each: by the log; by the roots; by a stone that looked exactly like the other stone.
5. Hazel meets Bramble and Moss in the bracken (1); Old Wren shows them the tiny oak tree (2); Lilly plants an acorn by Hazel's bracken bed (3); Hazel stands still without a single wobble (4).
6. Every acorn a squirrel forgets can grow into a new tree, so forgetting helps the woods grow more oak trees.
7. That she was like the little tree: she is growing too, just slowly, and does not have to be big today.
8. At the start she wanted to be big today. Now she just wants to keep growing and get a little bit better each day.
9. Any sensible answer linked to the story, for example: it will slowly grow into an oak tree, a little bit every summer, over years and years. It might one day be the biggest oak in Thistledown Woods.