Thistledown Lane

Hazel's Little Oak: 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-hazels-little-oak**

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's acorn has sprouted into a tiny oak. A baby tree needs looking after, so Hazel takes something very special to the Swap Shop.

The lesson

Looking after small things is a big job. And growing up happens a little at a time.

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: growing up, caring for living things, self-control.

Year 1: Hazel's Little Oak

Name: _____





Hazel is a young deer. Her acorn was planted by her bracken bed, next to a little stick. One spring morning, Hazel saw something new. A tiny green shoot! “My tree has started!” said Hazel.

Bramble and Moss came to look. The shoot had little green leaves. All winter, its root had held on under the ground. Hazel had grown too! Now she did not wobble at all.

They went to find Lilly in the woods. Little trees were popping up everywhere! They grew from the acorns Lilly had forgotten. “I’m a tree-planter!” said Lilly.

“It’ll need a fence round it,” said Lilly. So Hazel took her big speckled feather to Moss’s Swap Shop. Moss gave her a little ring of twigs.

Hazel put the ring of twigs round her tiny tree. Deer love to nibble baby shoots. But Hazel would not nibble this one. It was her tree!

Hazel lay down beside her little oak to keep it company. “Me and my tree. Growing up together,” said Hazel.

Year 1 questions

Name: _____

1 What came up next to Hazel's stick?

☐ a flower ☐ a tiny tree ☐ a mushroom

2 Who forgot where the acorns were buried?

☐ Lilly ☐ Moss ☐ Bramble

3 What did Hazel take to the Swap Shop?

☐ an acorn ☐ a feather ☐ a pebble

4 What did Moss give Hazel?

☐ a ring of twigs ☐ a blue button ☐ a toggle

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

☐ Hazel took her feather to the Swap Shop.

☐ Hazel saw a tiny shoot by her stick.

☐ Hazel put the fence round her tree.

6 True or false?

Hazel is a deer. **True** ☐ **False** ☐

Deer do not like to eat baby shoots. **True** ☐ **False** ☐

Little trees grew from Lilly's acorns. **True** ☐ **False** ☐

Year 2: Hazel's Little Oak

Name: _____





All winter long, Hazel's little stick had stood beside her bracken bed, where her acorn was planted. And this spring morning, the sun came through the trees, and Hazel came to look, just like she did every morning.

The stick was still there. But right beside it, something new had poked up through the earth. Something small, and curly, and very, very green. "Bramble! Moss! Come quick! Come and look!" said Hazel. So Bramble and Moss came hurrying through the bracken, as fast as their little legs would go.

"What is it? What's happened? Are you alright?" asked Moss. "Look! Down there, by my stick! My tree has started!" said Hazel. "Oh, Hazel. It's tiny. It's got little green leaves, like baby flags," said Bramble.

"But how did it get here? We only put an acorn in the ground. We didn't put a tree in," said Moss. "Old Wren told me. In the autumn, the acorn put a little root down into the earth. And all winter long, it held on tight, waiting," said Hazel.

Down under the ground, where nobody could see, the little root had been holding on all winter. And when the spring sun warmed the earth, up popped a shoot. "So it was growing all the time. Even when we couldn't see it," said Bramble.

And Hazel was so happy that she wanted to show them something else. Something she'd been practising all winter. "Watch this. Wibble, wobble... ta-da!" said Hazel. And Hazel stood perfectly still. No wibble. No wobble. Not even a little wiggle. Just tall, and steady, and proud.

"You didn't wobble! Not even a tiny bit!" said Moss. "Hazel, you've grown! Your legs are longer. You're taller than you were in the autumn," said Bramble. "Am I? I didn't feel it happening. I just practised, and practised again, and curled up in my bracken bed," said Hazel.

"That's how growing works. You can't see it while it's happening. Just like the little root under the ground," said Bramble. "So me and my tree, we both grew all winter. A little at a time," said Hazel. "I wonder if Lilly's seen it. She'll be so pleased," said Moss. "Let's go and find her!" said Hazel.

So off they went, into the woods. Hazel walked in front, steady as anything, and Bramble and Moss hurried along behind. And there was Lilly, in the middle of the woods, turning round and round, with her paws on her cheeks. “Hazel! Bramble! Moss! Come and see! They’re everywhere! Little trees, popping up all over the place!” said Lilly.

Lilly ran from shoot to shoot. There was a shoot by the log. A shoot by the roots. And a shoot by a stone that looked exactly like the other stone. “Lilly, where did they all come from?” asked Moss. “They’re my acorns! All the acorns I buried in the autumn, and forgot about. And now they’re all growing!” said Lilly.

“So all that forgetting was really planting,” said Bramble. “I told you. I’m not forgetful. I’m a tree-planter!” said Lilly. “Lilly, my tree has started too. By my stick. It’s got little green leaves,” said Hazel.

“Ooh, Hazel! Then you’ll have to look after it. It’ll need a fence round it, to keep it safe,” said Lilly. “A fence? Where do I get a fence?” asked Hazel. “Ah. I know just the place,” said Moss.

So Hazel went back to her bracken bed and fetched the most special thing she had: a big speckled feather that had fluttered down in the winter wind. And she carried it all the way up the lane. “Ding-a-ling! Swap Shop’s open!” said Moss. Hazel laid the feather down on the counter, gently, and nudged it across with her nose.

“Hello, Moss. I’ve come to swap. I need a fence for my little tree. Will you swap for my feather?” asked Hazel. “Ooh. That’s a beauty. Look at all those speckles. Nobody’s ever brought me a feather as big as that,” said Moss.

Moss reached up to the top shelf, and brought down something he’d made himself: a little ring of twigs, all woven together, just the right size to go round a baby tree. “I made it from twigs that blew down in the winter wind. I didn’t know what it was for. Now I do,” said Moss. “It’s perfect. Thank you, Moss,” said Hazel.

“Thank YOU. Now, I’m shutting up shop for a bit. I want to see this tree,” said Moss.

So back down the path they went, to the bracken. Hazel carried the ring of twigs in her mouth, very gently, so she wouldn’t drop it. And at the little stick, she lowered the ring of twigs, slowly, slowly, all the way down round the tiny shoot.

“Hazel, it’s a lovely fence. But why do we need a fence for something so small? Nobody’s going to hurt it,” said Moss. “Well… deer might. Deer love to nibble baby shoots. They’re soft, and green, and very tasty. Even I love them,” said Hazel. “Even you?” asked Bramble.

“Even me. But not this shoot. This shoot is my tree. I’m not going to nibble it. Not even a tiny nibble,” said Hazel. And Hazel turned her nose away from the shoot, very firmly, and lay down beside it instead, to keep it company. “So the fence is for the other deer. And you’re the guard,” said Moss.

“Me and my tree. Growing up together. Wibble, wobble… ta-da!” said Hazel. And Hazel stood up, tall and steady, beside her little oak, and didn’t wobble even a tiny bit.

“Looking after small things is a big job. Like a little tree, or a little friend. And growing up doesn’t happen all at once. It happens a little at a time, while you’re not even looking. See you soon!” said Bramble.

And so, at the edge of Thistledown Woods, a little oak stood safe inside its ring of twigs, growing a little at a time, with a steady young deer keeping watch beside it.





Year 2 questions

Name: _____

1 Where was Hazel's acorn planted? (1 mark) 1b

_____

2 "When the spring sun warmed the earth, up popped a shoot." In this story, what is a **shoot**? 1a
(1 mark)

☐ a new little plant growing up ☐ a big old tree ☐ a game with a ball

3 Name **two** places in the woods where Lilly's little trees were popping up. (2 marks) 1b

_____

_____

4 Find and copy **one** word that describes Hazel's feather. (1 mark) 1a

_____

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

☐ Hazel lowers the ring of twigs round the tiny shoot.

☐ Hazel shows her friends she can stand without wobbling.

☐ Lilly finds little trees all over the woods.

☐ Hazel swaps her feather at the Swap Shop.

6 Lilly said, "I'm not forgetful. I'm a tree-planter!" What did she mean? (1 mark) 1d

_____

_____

7 Moss said, "So the fence is for the other deer. And you're the guard." What did Moss mean? 1d
(1 mark)

_____

_____

8 How is Hazel like her little tree? Use the story to explain. (1 mark) 1d

_____

_____

9 What do you think Hazel's little oak will be like next year? Use the story to explain. (1 mark) 1e

_____

_____

Answers

Year 1

1. a tiny tree
2. Lilly
3. a feather
4. a ring of twigs
5. 1 Hazel saw a tiny shoot by her stick. 2 Hazel took her feather to the Swap Shop. 3 Hazel put the fence round her tree.
6. True; False (deer love to nibble baby shoots); True

Year 2 (total 10 marks)

1. Beside her bracken bed, by her little stick. (Accept: by her bracken bed.)
2. a new little plant growing up
3. Any two, 1 mark each: by the log; by the roots; by a stone (that looked exactly like the other stone).
4. big or speckled ("a big speckled feather")
5. Hazel shows her friends she can stand without wobbling (1); Lilly finds little trees all over the woods (2); Hazel swaps her feather at the Swap Shop (3); Hazel lowers the ring of twigs round the tiny shoot (4).
6. The acorns she buried and forgot about have grown into little trees, so all her forgetting was really planting.
7. The fence keeps other deer from nibbling the shoot, and Hazel will look after it herself. She won't nibble it, and she lies beside it to keep it company.
8. They both grew all winter, a little at a time, without anybody seeing it happen. The root grew under the ground, and Hazel's legs got longer.
9. Any sensible answer linked to the story, for example: it will be a bit bigger with more leaves, because it grows a little at a time and the ring of twigs keeps it safe from deer.