Thistledown Lane

Old Wren's Quiet Day: 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-old-wrens-quiet-day**

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

Old Wren has a cold and has lost his chirp. Bramble and Moss go looking for something soft, something warm and something nice.

The lesson

If a friend feels poorly, bring something soft, something warm, and something nice.

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, caring for others, friendship.

Year 1: Old Wren's Quiet Day

Name: _____





Every morning, Old Wren sings from his branch on Thistledown Lane. But one morning, there was no song. “Where’s Old Wren’s song?” said Bramble.

Bramble and Moss went to see him. Old Wren was fluffed up like a little brown ball. “I’ve got a cold,” he said. His chirp had gone croaky.

“We will help,” said Bramble. “We need something soft for his head, something warm for his back, and something nice for his tummy.”

In the big green field, Moss picked dandelion fluff for a soft pillow. Then he sneezed. Half the pillow floated away!

In the woods, Moss found a big leaf by the tallest tree. It was so big, you could only see his feet! It was heavy, so they carried it together. Then Mam gave them a warm honey bun.

They took the three things back to Old Wren. He had a peck of honey bun. Then he said, “Chirp!” His chirp was back!

Year 1 questions

Name: _____

1 Who had a cold?

☐ Bramble ☐ Old Wren ☐ Moss

2 What did Moss use to make a soft pillow?

☐ dandelion fluff ☐ a big leaf ☐ a honey bun

3 What did Mam give them?

☐ a cake ☐ a hazelnut ☐ a honey bun

4 What happened when Moss sneezed?

☐ The leaf blew away. ☐ Half the pillow floated away. ☐ Old Wren flew away.

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

☐ Mam gave them a honey bun.

☐ Moss found a big leaf.

☐ Moss picked dandelion fluff.

6 True or false?

Old Wren lost his chirp. **True** ☐ **False** ☐

The big leaf was for his tummy. **True** ☐ **False** ☐

Old Wren's chirp came back. **True** ☐ **False** ☐

Year 2: Old Wren's Quiet Day

Name: _____





Every morning on Thistledown Lane begins the same way: the sun comes up over the hills, the leaves go scritch-scratch along the wall, and Old Wren sings from his branch. Every morning, that is, except this one.

“Moss, listen,” said Bramble. “I can’t hear anything.” “Exactly. Where’s Old Wren’s song?”

Up on his branch, Old Wren was fluffed up like a little brown ball, with his beak tucked under his wing. “Old Wren? Are you all right?” “Hnff. Hello, little hedgehog. I’ve got a cold. My chirp’s gone all… hnff… croaky.”

“A bird with no chirp?” said Moss. “That’s the saddest thing I ever heard.” “Don’t fuss. I’ll just sit here quietly. Hnff.” “We’re not leaving you like that,” said Bramble. “Come on, Moss. We’ve got jobs to do.” “We have?”

“Something soft for his head. Something warm for his back. And something nice for his tummy.” “Soft, warm, and nice,” said Moss. “I can remember that.” So off they went, down the lane, with a list of three things and no idea where to find them.

The big green field was full of dandelion clocks, nodding their white fluffy heads in the breeze. “Bramble, look at these. They’re like little clouds on sticks.” “Soft. Something soft for his head!”

Moss stood on his tiptoes and puffed, and the fluff came away in his paws like a tiny pillow. “Got it! Oh… it tickles. Ah… ah…” “Don’t sneeze!” “Achoo!”

And half the pillow floated away over the wall. “Oops.” “Never mind. We’ve still got enough. Hold it tight, and don’t breathe on it.” One thing found. Two to go.

In the woods, the leaves lay thick and golden on the floor, all different sizes. “We need a big one,” said Bramble. “The biggest, warmest leaf in the whole wood.” “This one’s big.” “That’s a twig.” “This one’s big!” “That’s a toadstool, Moss. Put it down.”

Then Moss stopped, right at the foot of the tallest tree. “Bramble. THIS one’s big.” It was. It was so big that when Moss picked it up, all you could see was a leaf with two little pink feet underneath.

“Perfect. Something warm for his back.” “It’s a bit heavy,” said a voice from under the leaf. “Then we’ll carry it together.” Two things found. One to go. And the last one meant going home.

“Well, look at the pair of you,” said Mam. “A pillow and a leaf. Are you building a nest?” “It’s for Old Wren, Mam. He’s got a cold and he’s lost his chirp.” “Oh, the poor old thing. Then he’ll be needing something nice for his tummy.”

“That’s the third thing!” said Moss. “How did you know?” “Mams know. Here. One honey bun, warm from the oven. Mind you don’t eat it on the way.” “I would never.” “Well. Maybe a crumb.” “Moss!”

Three things found. And back up the lane they went, as fast as a leaf and a pillow and a bun would let them.

“Old Wren! We’re back!” “Hnff. So you are. What’s all this?” “Something soft for your head,” said Moss. “Something warm for your back,” said Bramble. “And something nice for your tummy. Honey bun. Mostly whole.”

Old Wren tucked the pillow under his head, and the big leaf over his back, and took one small peck of honey bun. “Mm. That’s… that’s very…” And then something happened that neither of them expected.

“Hnff… hnff… CHIRP!” “He chirped!” cried Moss. “Chirp! Chirrup! Oh, that’s better. That’s MUCH better.” “Your chirp came back!”

“It was never far away,” said Old Wren. “It just needed a good pillow, a warm leaf, and two very kind friends.” And the lane filled up with birdsong again, all the way down to the little round door.

“Did it work?” asked Mam. “Listen.” Through the open door came a chirp, and another, and another. “Well, there we are. Now, who’s for a honey bun?” “Me! I only had a crumb. Honestly.”

“If a friend feels poorly, you don’t need to fix everything. Just bring something soft, something warm, and something nice.” And that’s how friends look after each other, down on Thistledown Lane.





Year 2 questions

Name: _____

1 Why was there no song on Thistledown Lane that morning? (1 mark) 1b

2 Find and copy **one** word that Old Wren uses to describe how his chirp sounds. (1 mark) 1a

3 "Moss stood on his **tiptoes** and puffed." What does standing on your tiptoes mean? (1 mark) 1a

☐ standing on the ends of your toes to be taller ☐ lying down flat on the ground

☐ jumping up and down

4 Name **two** of the things Bramble and Moss brought for Old Wren. (2 marks) 1b

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

☐ Mam gives them a honey bun.

☐ Moss sneezes and half the pillow floats away.

☐ Old Wren chirps again.

☐ Moss finds a big leaf at the foot of the tallest tree.

6 When Moss picked up the leaf, "all you could see was a leaf with two little pink feet underneath." What does this tell you about the leaf? (1 mark) 1d

7 Old Wren said, "Don't fuss." Why do you think Bramble did not leave him on his own? (1 mark) 1d

8 Moss said the honey bun was "Mostly whole." Why was it not completely whole? (1 mark) 1d

9 If Moss had a cold one day, what do you think Bramble would do? Use the story to explain. (1 mark) 1e

Answers

Year 1

1. Old Wren
2. dandelion fluff
3. a honey bun
4. Half the pillow floated away.
5. 1 Moss picked dandelion fluff. 2 Moss found a big leaf. 3 Mam gave them a honey bun.
6. True; False (the leaf was something warm for his back; the honey bun was for his tummy); True

Year 2 (total 10 marks)

1. Old Wren had a cold and his chirp had gone croaky. (Accept: Old Wren had a cold / had lost his chirp.)
2. croaky
3. standing on the ends of your toes to be taller
4. Any two, 1 mark each: a pillow of dandelion fluff (something soft for his head); a big leaf (something warm for his back); a honey bun (something nice for his tummy).
5. Moss sneezes and half the pillow floats away (1); Moss finds a big leaf at the foot of the tallest tree (2); Mam gives them a honey bun (3); Old Wren chirps again (4).
6. It was very big, bigger than Moss. It covered him so you could only see his feet.
7. She cared about him and wanted to help him feel better. She said, “We’re not leaving you like that.”
8. Moss had eaten a crumb of it on the way. (He says, “Maybe a crumb,” and later, “I only had a crumb.”)
9. Any sensible answer linked to the story, for example: she would bring him something soft, something warm and something nice, like she did for Old Wren.