Thistledown Lane

Skye Comes Home: 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-skye-comes-home**

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

Skye the swallow is back, but her mud nest has crumbled over winter. Who on the lane loves mud?

The lesson

A real friend is worth waiting for.

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: friendship, patience, asking for help.

Year 1: Skye Comes Home

Name: _____





It was spring on Thistledown Lane. Something flew over the hedge, very fast. It was Skye the swallow! “Hello, Thistledown Lane! I’m back!” said Skye.

“See you in spring!” everybody shouted. Skye had flown a long way. She wanted to see her nest in the old barn.

But the nest was all crumbly. There was a big gap in the side. The winter wind and rain had done it. “I need mud to mend it,” said Skye. But the ground was dry and dusty.

Skye went to Moss’s Swap Shop. She put a pink shell on the counter. “I need help,” she said. “I need some sticky mud.” Moss knew just who to ask. “Barnaby!” said Bramble.

Barnaby dug by the ditch with his little spade. “Dig, dig, diggity!” he said. He found lovely sticky mud.

Skye flew back and forth with little beakfuls of mud. The gap got smaller and smaller. The sun dried the mud hard. Skye’s nest was mended! “Thank you, everybody,” said Skye.

Year 1 questions

Name: _____

1 Who came back to Thistledown Lane?

☐ Skye ☐ Hazel ☐ Pip

2 Where is Skye's nest?

☐ in a tree ☐ in the old barn ☐ in the hedge

3 What did Skye need to mend her nest?

☐ string ☐ leaves ☐ mud

4 Who dug up the sticky mud?

☐ Barnaby ☐ Moss ☐ Old Wren

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

☐ Barnaby dug up some mud.

☐ Skye came back to the lane.

☐ Skye mended her nest.

6 True or false?

Skye is a swallow. **True** ☐ **False** ☐

Skye found a new nest somewhere else. **True** ☐ **False** ☐

The sun dried the mud hard. **True** ☐ **False** ☐

Year 2: Skye Comes Home

Name: _____





It was a bright spring morning on Thistledown Lane. Moss and Lilly and Sorrel were out on the lane with Bramble, and Old Wren was up on the wall, keeping watch, as always. And then, high over the hedge, something went whizz. A little streak of navy blue, and a flash of red, and a lilac neckerchief.

“What was that? Was it a bird? It was so fast!” said Lilly. “I know who that is! Nobody else is that fast!” said Bramble. Down she swooped, and landed on the wall, right next to Old Wren.

“Hello, Thistledown Lane! I’m back!” said Skye. “Skye! It’s Skye! She’s home!” said Moss. And everybody remembered what they had shouted, all those months ago, when Skye flew away. And they all shouted it again, as loud as they could.

“See you in spring!” they all shouted. “Silly sausages! You don’t need to see me in spring. It IS spring! And here I am,” said Skye. “You were gone for ages, Skye. The whole winter,” said Sorrel.

“And I kept the lane safe for you, just as I said. Welcome home, Skye,” said Old Wren. “Thank you, Old Wren. I’ve flown such a long way. Over the desert, and over the sea, and over the hills. And all the way home, I was thinking about my nest. My very own nest, in the old barn,” said Skye.

“Can we come and see it?” asked Bramble. “Come on, then! Follow me!” said Skye.

So Skye flew on ahead, and Bramble and Lilly ran down the path behind her, all the way to the old barn at the edge of the field. And up under the roof, tucked in the corner, was Skye’s nest. But it didn’t look much like a nest any more. “Oh dear. Oh, my poor nest,” said Skye.

“It’s all crumbly. There’s a great big gap in the side,” said Lilly. “The winter wind has been at it. And the rain. Little bits have fallen right off,” said Skye. “Will you have to find a new nest, somewhere else?” asked Bramble.

“Oh, no. Swallows come back to their very same nest, every spring. This is MY nest. I just need to mend it. And to mend it, I need mud. Lots and lots of mud,” said Skye. “Mud? Why do you want mud? Mud’s all sticky and squelchy,” said Lilly.

“That’s why it’s perfect! Swallows build with mud. We carry it up in our beaks, a little beakful at a time, and press it on. And when the mud dries, it goes hard, like a little cup,” said Skye. “A little mud cup, just for sitting in. Ooh,” said Lilly.

“But the ground round the barn is all dry and dusty. I can’t find any sticky mud at all,” said Skye. “Let’s ask Moss. Moss knows everybody,” said Bramble. “You go. I’ll stay here and keep watch on the nest,” said Lilly.

So back along the path they went, to the old tree stump by the gatepost, Bramble trotting along, and Skye fluttering on ahead. “Ding-a-ling! Swap Shop’s open!” said Moss. “Hello, Moss. I’d like to swap, please. I’ve brought something, all the way from the seaside,” said Skye.

And Skye bent her head, and set something down on the counter with her beak. A tiny pink shell, with swirly stripes, that she’d found on the sand, on her way home. “A seaside shell! Nobody’s ever brought me a seaside shell. What would you like for it?” asked Moss.

“I don’t need anything off your shelves. I need help. I need somebody to find me some sticky mud, for my nest,” said Skye. “Help? Hmm. I haven’t got any help on my shelves. But I know just who to ask. Somebody who loves mud more than anybody,” said Moss. “Barnaby!” said Bramble.

And just then, along the lane, came a red bobble hat, bobbing. “Hello, everybody. Did somebody say mud?” asked Barnaby.

So Barnaby took them down the path, to a shady spot by the ditch, where the ground was soft and dark. “The best mud’s never on top. It’s down underneath, where it’s cool. Stand back, now. Dig, dig, diggity!” said Barnaby. And Barnaby dug, with his little spade, and the earth went flying.

“There we are. Lovely sticky mud. The stickiest on the lane,” said Barnaby. Skye hopped down to the edge, dipped her beak in, and picked up a little round beakful of mud. “Mmf! It’s perfect, Barnaby!” said Skye.

“But Skye, there’s such a lot of nest to mend. Won’t it take ages?” asked Bramble. “It takes as long as it takes. A little beakful, then another, then another. That’s how swallows do it,” said Skye.

So back and forth Skye flew, from the ditch to the barn, and from the barn to the ditch. And every time, she pressed a beakful of mud on her nest. And Bramble and Lilly and Barnaby watched from down below, as the gap got smaller, and smaller. “Look! The gap’s gone! It’s a cup again!” said Lilly.

And the warm spring sun came out, and dried the mud hard. And the nest was whole again, just the way it had always been. “My very own nest. Back where it belongs. Thank you, Barnaby. Thank you, everybody,” said Skye. “Any time. I do like mud. Dig, dig, diggity!” said Barnaby.

“And now I’m home, I’ll be swooping up and down the lane all summer long. So you’ll see me tomorrow. And the day after. And the day after that!” said Skye. “All winter, we said see you in spring. And here you are, Skye. You came back, just like you said,” said Bramble.

“Sometimes a friend has to go far away, for a long, long time. But a real friend is worth waiting for. Because they come back. See you soon!” said Bramble. And so Skye was home on Thistledown Lane, in her very own nest, under the very same roof. And all summer long, there was somebody very fast on the lane again.





Year 2 questions

Name: _____

1 Where did Skye find the tiny pink shell? (1 mark) 1b

2 Skye's nest was "all crumbly". What does **crumbly** mean? (1 mark) 1a

☐ breaking into little bits ☐ soft and warm ☐ brand new

3 Name **two** things Skye flew over on her way home. (2 marks) 1b

4 Lilly asked why Skye wanted mud. Find and copy **one** word Lilly used to describe mud. (1 mark) 1a

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

- ☐ Barnaby digs in a shady spot by the ditch.
- ☐ Skye sees the big gap in her nest.
- ☐ The warm sun dries the mud hard.
- ☐ Skye puts a pink shell on the Swap Shop counter.

6 How did Bramble know it was Skye flying over the hedge? (1 mark) 1d

7 Why didn't Skye want to find a new nest somewhere else? (1 mark) 1d

8 Bramble asked if mending the nest would take ages. Skye said, "It takes as long as it takes." What does this tell you about Skye? (1 mark) 1d

9 What do you think Skye will do when the next winter comes? Use the story to explain. (1 mark) 1e

Answers

Year 1

1. Skye
2. in the old barn
3. mud
4. Barnaby
5. 1 Skye came back to the lane. 2 Barnaby dug up some mud. 3 Skye mended her nest.
6. True; False (she mended her very same nest); True

Year 2 (total 10 marks)

1. On the sand at the seaside, on her way home. (Accept: at the seaside.)
2. breaking into little bits
3. Any two, 1 mark each: the desert; the sea; the hills.
4. sticky or squelchy ("Mud's all sticky and squelchy.")
5. Skye sees the big gap in her nest (1); Skye puts a pink shell on the Swap Shop counter (2); Barnaby digs in a shady spot by the ditch (3); The warm sun dries the mud hard (4).
6. It was so fast. Bramble said, "Nobody else is that fast!"
7. Swallows come back to their very same nest every spring. It was her own nest, so she wanted to mend it.
8. She is patient. She doesn't mind how long it takes; she will mend it a little beakful at a time.
9. Any sensible answer linked to the story, for example: she will fly far away for the winter and come back to the same nest in spring, because she was gone for the whole winter and swallows come back to their very same nest every spring.