Thistledown Lane

Sorrel's Spring Coat: 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-sorrels-spring-coat**

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

Little orange tufts are blowing all down the lane, and they're coming off Sorrel! But somebody needs something soft for their nest.

The lesson

The bits of you that you're shy about can turn out to be a gift for somebody else.

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: feeling embarrassed, bodies changing, sharing, kindness.

Year 1: Sorrel's Spring Coat

Name: _____





It was a breezy spring morning on Thistledown Lane. There was orange fluff everywhere! It was on the grass, on the hedge and on Lilly's beret.

The fluff was coming off Sorrel the fox. "I'm falling to bits!" said Sorrel. He curled up by the hedge and put his tail over his face.

Bramble took Sorrel home to Mam. "You're not falling to bits," said Mam. "You're changing your coat." His thick winter coat was coming out. A light summer coat was growing underneath.

Mam brushed Sorrel's back with her softest brush. Out came big puffs of orange fluff. "That tickles!" said Sorrel.

Sorrel took the fluff to Moss's Swap Shop. Then the wren cousins flew down. "We need something soft!" they said. Sorrel gave them his fluff for their nests. They gave him a little striped feather.

The cousins flew away with beakfuls of orange fur. "My coat's going to keep the baby birds warm," said Sorrel. "I'm not falling to bits after all. I'm sharing!"

Year 1 questions

Name: _____

1. Where was the orange fluff coming from?

   ☐ Sorrel ☐ Moss ☐ Mam

2. How did Sorrel feel when he saw the fluff?

   ☐ proud ☐ upset ☐ sleepy

3. Who said, “You’re changing your coat”?

   ☐ Mam ☐ Old Wren ☐ Lilly

4. Who needed something soft for their nests?

   ☐ the wren cousins ☐ Skye ☐ Moss

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

   ☐ Mam brushed Sorrel’s back.

   ☐ Sorrel hid by the hedge.

   ☐ The cousins took the fluff to their nests.

6. True or false?

   Sorrel is a fox. **True** ☐ **False** ☐

   Changing your coat hurts. **True** ☐ **False** ☐

   Sorrel got a striped feather. **True** ☐ **False** ☐

Year 2: Sorrel's Spring Coat

Name: _____





It was a bright, breezy morning on Thistledown Lane. The blossom was out, and the birds were busy. And everywhere you looked, there was fluff. Fluff on the grass. Fluff on the hedge. Little orange tufts of fluff, floating along on the breeze. “Where’s all this fluff coming from? It’s all over my shop step,” said Moss.

“And it’s on my beret! Look! There’s a fluffy orange bit, right on the top,” said Lilly. “It’s very soft. And it’s very orange. Hmm. I know somebody who’s very orange,” said Bramble. And they all turned round, and looked at Sorrel.

“What? Why is everybody looking at me?” asked Sorrel. “Sorrel, it’s you! The fluff’s coming off you!” said Lilly. Sorrel looked down at himself. And it was true. There were little tufts sticking out of his coat, everywhere. And as he looked, a little bit more floated away on the breeze. “Oh no. Oh no, no, no,” said Sorrel.

Sorrel’s ears went flat, and his tail went down, and he didn’t know where to look. “I’m falling to bits! Little bits of me are blowing all down the lane!” said Sorrel. “You’re not falling to bits, Sorrel. Are you?” asked Moss.

“I am! Look at me. I’m all patchy, and scruffy, and tufty. Don’t look at me. I’m going to hide,” said Sorrel. So Sorrel curled up small by the hedge, and put his big bushy tail right over his face. But a tail is not very good at hiding a fox. “Sorrel? We can still see you. And we don’t mind if you’re scruffy,” said Bramble.

“But what if I keep falling to bits, until there’s nothing left? Just a scarf, on its own, on the lane?” asked Sorrel. “Oh, Sorrel. That would be very sad. And very silly,” said Lilly. High up on the wall, Old Wren gave a cheerful little chirrup.

“Spring’s a busy time for coats, young Sorrel. But don’t ask me. I’m all feathers. Ask somebody who knows about fur,” said Old Wren. “My Mam knows about everything. Come on, Sorrel. Come home with me,” said Bramble.

So Bramble took Sorrel home, to the little round door at the end of the lane. And all the way there, little bits of fluff floated along behind them. “Mam, why am I falling to bits?” asked Sorrel. “Oh, love. You’re not falling to bits. You’re changing your coat,” said Mam.

“All winter, you had your thick winter coat on. All fluffy and puffy, to keep you warm in the snow. Well, now summer’s coming, and you’d be far too hot in that. So your winter coat is coming out, bit by bit. And underneath, a nice light summer coat is growing,” said Mam. “Like taking off a big woolly jumper when it gets warm!” said Bramble.

“Just like that. Every fox does it, every spring,” said Mam. “Does it hurt? It doesn’t feel like it hurts,” said Sorrel. “It never hurts. Not a bit. Here, let me show you,” said Mam.

And Mam took her softest brush, and brushed Sorrel’s back, very gently. And out came great big puffs of orange fluff. “That tickles! Ooh, that feels lovely!” said Sorrel. “There. Now look. Under all that fluff, your summer coat, all smooth and shiny,” said Mam.

“But look at all that fluff on the floor. What do I do with it all? It’s no good to anybody,” said Sorrel. “Oh, I wouldn’t say that. Soft things are always good for something. Why don’t you take it up to Moss?” asked Mam.

So Sorrel and Bramble wrapped the fluff up in a big dock leaf, and carried it up the lane to the old tree stump by the gatepost. “Ding-a-ling! Swap Shop’s open! Hello, Sorrel. Ooh, you look smart. What’s in the bundle?” asked Moss. “It’s my old winter coat. Well, lots of bits of it. Mam says soft things are always good for something,” said Sorrel.

“Hmm. Soft, and fluffy, and orange. Now, who needs something soft?” asked Moss. And just then, there was a whirr of little wings, and a lot of chattering. And down onto the top of the old stump came Old Wren’s cousins. “It’s the wren cousins! Hello, cousins! What are you all doing here?” asked Bramble.

“Building nests! Spring nests! But they’re all scratchy inside. We need something soft!” said the wren cousins. “Something soft? Well, I never. Sorrel’s got lots of something soft,” said Moss.

Sorrel looked at his bundle of fluff. Then he looked at the cousins. And he began to smile. “You can have my old coat! For your nests! It’s ever so soft,” said Sorrel. “But it’s a shop! We have to swap! We found this under the hedge,” said the wren cousins.

“That’s the rule. Nobody pays at the Swap Shop. You swap something you’ve got, for something you need. A feather for some fluff. And that feather would look very smart in a scarf,” said Moss. So Sorrel tucked the little striped feather into his red and white scarf. “Oh, Sorrel. You look ever so smart. And ever so smooth!” said Bramble.

Then the cousins took the soft orange fur, and stuffed as much as they could into their little beaks, while everybody said it with them. “Squeeze in, squeeze up! Squeeze in, squeeze up!” said the wren cousins. And away they flew, back to their nests, with beakfuls of fox fur trailing behind them like little orange beards.

“Your fur kept the cousins warm last winter, in their snug hole in the wall. And now it’s going to keep the spring nests warm too,” said Moss. “My coat’s going to keep the baby birds warm. My old coat! I’m not falling to bits after all. I’m sharing!” said Sorrel.

“Sometimes there’s a bit of you that makes you want to hide. But that bit might be just what somebody else needs. Like Sorrel’s fluff, keeping the baby birds warm. See you soon!” said Bramble. And all that spring, if you peeped into the hedges along Thistledown Lane, you might just find a little nest, lined with soft orange fur.





Year 2 questions

Name: _____

1 What did Sorrel and Bramble wrap the fluff up in? (1 mark) 1b

2 Sorrel said, "I'm all patchy, and scruffy, and tufty." What does **scruffy** mean? (1 mark) 1a

☐ untidy and messy ☐ clean and smart ☐ wet and cold

3 Name **two** places where the orange fluff landed at the start of the story. (2 marks) 1b

4 Find and copy **one** word that describes Sorrel's new summer coat. (1 mark) 1a

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

- ☐ The wren cousins fly down onto the old stump.
- ☐ Sorrel puts his tail over his face to hide.
- ☐ Mam brushes Sorrel's back with her softest brush.
- ☐ Sorrel tucks the striped feather into his scarf.

6 Old Wren said, "Ask somebody who knows about fur." Why didn't he answer Sorrel himself? (1 mark) 1d

7 Bramble said changing your coat was "like taking off a big woolly jumper when it gets warm". What did she mean? (1 mark) 1d

8 How did Sorrel's feelings change from the start of the story to the end? (1 mark) 1d

9 What do you think Sorrel will do next spring, when his winter coat starts coming out again? Use the story to explain. (1 mark) 1e

Answers

Year 1

1. Sorrel
2. upset
3. Mam
4. the wren cousins
5. 1 Sorrel hid by the hedge. 2 Mam brushed Sorrel's back. 3 The cousins took the fluff to their nests.
6. True; False (Mam said it never hurts); True

Year 2 (total 10 marks)

1. A big dock leaf.
2. untidy and messy
3. Any two, 1 mark each: on the grass; on the hedge; on Moss's shop step; on Lilly's beret.
4. smooth or shiny (accept: light)
5. Sorrel puts his tail over his face to hide (1); Mam brushes Sorrel's back with her softest brush (2); The wren cousins fly down onto the old stump (3); Sorrel tucks the striped feather into his scarf (4).
6. He is a bird and he is all feathers, so he doesn't know about fur.
7. Sorrel's thick winter coat comes out because summer is coming and he would be far too hot in it, just like we take off a warm jumper.
8. At the start he was upset and embarrassed and wanted to hide ("Don't look at me"). At the end he was happy, because his fur was keeping the baby birds warm ("I'm sharing!").
9. Any sensible answer linked to the story, for example: he won't hide or worry, because he knows it doesn't hurt and his fluff can be shared to line nests.