Thistledown Lane

The First Frost: 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-the-first-frost**

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

Thistledown Lane wakes up white and sparkly, and everybody gets ready for winter in their own way. Squeeze in, squeeze up!

The lesson

Everybody gets ready in their own way, and sharing makes it easier for all of us.

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: sharing, helping others, being different.

Year 1: The First Frost

Name: _____





One morning, Thistledown Lane was all white and sparkly. It was the first frost. “It means winter’s on its way,” said Bramble.

Everybody was getting ready for winter. Sorrel had a thick winter coat. Moss had a seed store. Lilly had buried her acorns.

Bramble was hungry all the time! She went home to Mam. Mam said hedgehogs sleep for most of the winter. To sleep that long, a hedgehog needs to be nice and round.

That evening, Old Wren’s cousins came. They wanted to sleep in a little hole in the old wall. But it was hard and chilly in there.

So the friends brought soft things. Lilly brought moss. Moss brought thistledown. Bramble brought dry leaves. Sorrel brought some of his old summer fur.

Then all the little wrens squeezed into the hole to keep warm. “Squeeze in, squeeze up!” “Thank you for sharing,” said Old Wren.

Year 1 questions

Name: _____

1 What did Thistledown Lane look like on the morning of the first frost?

☐ wet and muddy ☐ white and sparkly ☐ green and sunny

2 Where is Moss's seed store?

☐ under the gatepost ☐ in a tree ☐ in the old wall

3 How did Bramble feel all the time?

☐ cross ☐ sleepy ☐ hungry

4 Who came to stay with Old Wren?

☐ his cousins ☐ Skye ☐ Barnaby

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

☐ The wrens squeezed into the hole.

☐ Bramble ate a big bowl of food.

☐ Everybody saw the frost.

6 True or false?

Sorrel has a thick winter coat. **True** ☐ **False** ☐

Hedgehogs stay awake all winter. **True** ☐ **False** ☐

All the wrens fitted in the hole. **True** ☐ **False** ☐

Year 2: The First Frost

Name: _____





One morning, Thistledown Lane woke up and it had gone white. Every leaf, every blade of grass, every spider's web, all sparkly with frost. "Ooh! Ooh! It's cold! My paws are cold!" said Lilly. "It crunches. Listen. Crunch, crunch, crunch," said Moss.

"It's the first frost. Mam said it was coming. It means winter's on its way," said Bramble. And then up the lane came somebody so big and so fluffy that at first nobody knew who it was. "Sorrel? Is that you? You've gone all puffy!" said Moss.

"It's my winter coat. It grew in all thick, ready for the cold. I'm extremely cosy," said Sorrel. "Can I feel? Oh! It's like a cloud!" said Lilly.

Everybody, it turned out, was getting ready for winter. Just in different ways. "I've got a seed store. Under the gatepost. Seeds, and more seeds, and a few more seeds in case," said Moss. "And I've buried my acorns. All over the woods. I don't know where any of them are, but I've buried them," said Lilly.

"And I've got my coat," said Sorrel. "And I'm hungry," said Bramble. "You had breakfast," said Moss.

"I know. I'm still hungry. I'm hungry all the time. I was hungry in the middle of the night. I was hungry while I was being hungry," said Bramble. "Perhaps your tummy's getting ready for winter too," said Sorrel. And Bramble's tummy gave a great big rumble, so loud that a robin on the wall flew away in surprise.

"...I think I'd better go and see Mam," said Bramble.

So Bramble went home, where Mam had a pot bubbling on the stove, and a big bowl already waiting on the table. "There you are. I thought you might be along. Sit down, love," said Mam. "How did you know I'd be hungry?" asked Bramble.

"Because it's the first frost. Every hedgehog in the world is hungry today," said Mam. And Bramble ate the whole bowlful, every bit of it, and then she looked at the empty bowl, and thought about it. "Mam... why am I so hungry all the time?" asked Bramble.

“Because soon, when the cold really comes, hedgehogs make a cosy nest of leaves, and sleep for most of the winter. A long, long sleep. And to sleep that long, a hedgehog needs to be nice and round first,” said Mam. “A long sleep? All winter?” asked Bramble. “Not yet. Not for a little while. But soon. So you eat up, and you get nice and round, and when the time comes, you’ll be all ready,” said Mam.

“Will you be sleeping too?” asked Bramble. “I will. Just along the hedge from you. Now. Would you like some more?” asked Mam. “...Yes please,” said Bramble.

That evening, as the sky went pink and the frost came back, the friends heard the most enormous twittering coming from the old wall. It was Old Wren. And with him were his cousins. Lots and lots of little wrens, all fluffed up, all talking at once. “My cousins. They’ve come for the cold nights. They always do,” said Old Wren.

“Hello, cousins! Where are you all going to sleep?” asked Lilly. “In there!” said the cousins. And everybody looked at the hole in the old wall. It was a very small hole. It was a hole for about one wren.

“You can’t ALL fit in there!” said Moss. “Oh, we can. On a cold night, wrens squeeze in together, all snug, and keep each other warm. Show them, cousins,” said Old Wren. “Squeeze in, squeeze up! Squeeze in, squeeze up!” said the cousins.

“Only it’s a bit hard and chilly in there this year. The old moss has all blown away,” said Old Wren.

“Then we’ll help. Everybody bring something soft,” said Bramble. So off they went, as fast as they could in the cold. And Lilly came back with moss from her drey. And Moss came back with a big puff of thistledown. And Bramble came back with the driest leaves she could find. And Sorrel came back with a tuft of his old summer fur.

“I don’t need it any more. I’ve got my new coat,” said Sorrel. And they tucked it all into the little hole, soft and dry and warm, until it was the cosiest hole on the whole of Thistledown Lane. “Well. That’s the best it’s ever been. Thank you, all of you,” said Old Wren.

And then, one after another, the little wrens hopped into the hole, squeezing and wriggling, while everybody said it together. Squeeze in, squeeze up! Squeeze in, squeeze up! “Squeeze in, squeeze up!” said the cousins. Until at last there was only Old Wren left on the wall. And somehow, there was still just room for one more.

“Goodnight, all. Thank you for sharing,” said Old Wren. “Goodnight, Wren. Goodnight, cousins,” said Moss. And the friends walked home under the first stars, with cold paws and warm tummies. And Bramble was very quiet, because she was thinking about the long sleep.

“Mam says it’s coming soon. The long sleep,” said Bramble. “Then we’ll help you get ready too. Like we helped the wrens,” said Lilly. “That’s what friends are for,” said Sorrel.

“Everybody gets ready for winter in their own way. Some grow coats, and some store seeds, and some eat and eat and eat. But it’s easier when you share. Just like the wrens. Squeeze in, squeeze up,” said Bramble. And that night, the frost came down again on Thistledown Lane. But inside the old wall, it was the warmest it had ever been.





Year 2 questions

Name: _____

1 What did Bramble say the first frost means? (1 mark) 1b

2 Moss says to Sorrel, "You've gone all **puffy**!" What does **puffy** mean here? (1 mark) 1a

☐ small and thin ☐ big and fluffy ☐ wet and cold

3 Find and copy **one** word Moss uses for the sound the frost makes. (1 mark) 1a

4 Name **two** soft things the friends brought for the wrens' hole. (2 marks) 1b

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

- ☐ Old Wren's cousins arrive at the old wall.
- ☐ Sorrel shows everyone his winter coat.
- ☐ Mam explains the long winter sleep.
- ☐ The friends tuck soft things into the hole.

6 Lilly says, "I don't know where any of them are, but I've buried them." What does this tell you about Lilly? (1 mark) 1d

7 Bramble said, "I think I'd better go and see Mam." Why did she decide to go home? (1 mark) 1d

8 At the end, inside the old wall "it was the warmest it had ever been." Why was it so warm? (1 mark) 1d

9 Lilly says, "Then we'll help you get ready too. Like we helped the wrens." How do you think the friends will help Bramble? Use the story to explain. (1 mark) 1e

Answers

Year 1

1. white and sparkly
2. under the gatepost
3. hungry
4. his cousins
5. 1 Everybody saw the frost. 2 Bramble ate a big bowl of food. 3 The wrens squeezed into the hole.
6. True; False (they sleep for most of the winter); True

Year 2 (total 10 marks)

1. Winter's on its way.
2. big and fluffy
3. crunch (accept: crunches)
4. Any two, 1 mark each: moss (from Lilly's drey); a puff of thistledown; the driest leaves; a tuft of Sorrel's old summer fur.
5. Sorrel shows everyone his winter coat (1); Mam explains the long winter sleep (2); Old Wren's cousins arrive at the old wall (3); the friends tuck soft things into the hole (4).
6. She is forgetful: she buries her acorns but forgets where they are.
7. She was very hungry, and her tummy rumbled so loudly that a robin flew away. Mam would have food for her.
8. The friends had filled the hole with soft, dry things, and the wrens squeezed in together to keep each other warm.
9. Any sensible answer linked to the story, for example: they will help her make a cosy nest of leaves for her long winter sleep, because Mam said hedgehogs make a cosy nest of leaves.