

Forests in Fairytales

There have been many famous forests used by authors in fiction, and none more so than those who wrote fairytales. Sometimes our heroes are left stranded in the forest, needing to find their way home as in Hansel and Gretel.

In this story two children are led deep into a forest by their father because he is unable to feed them any longer. On each occasion the clever Hansel found a way that the children could retrace their steps and return home safely. Finally, Hansel and Gretel did become lost in the forest, and with nightfall approaching, they discovered a little house made of gingerbread and candy. Hansel was able to trick the wicked witch who lived there and with her demise, the children and their parents were reunited and lived happily ever after.

Then of course, the quick-witted little girl who wore a red hood had to venture through a dangerous forest inhabited by a nasty wolf to take a much needed hamper of food to her sick grandmother. On her arrival she was suspicious when her grandmother's features seemed much larger than she remembered.

The heroine in question is of course, Little Red Riding Hood and she was fortunate that a brave wood-cutter came to her rescue and lopped the wicked wolf's head clean off. Alas he was not in time to save the grandmother.

Snow White was too beautiful and her evil step mother wanted her dead. A huntsman was given strict instructions to kill her and bring back her vital organs. Even he was moved by her beauty and he abandoned her in a dark and dangerous forest, returning to the evil queen with the heart of a wild animal. Snow White stumbled alone through the forest until darkness was about to fall. Fortunately she came across a small cottage inhabited by seven dwarfs.

They agreed to look after her but despite this she survived three attempts on her life by the evil queen until she was eventually saved by a handsome prince. There are various accounts as to what happened to the evil queen, none of which was very pleasant! But of course, Snow White and her prince, and the seven dwarfs all lived happily ever after.

Part 1 – Use the information above to answer the questions in the following comprehension.

Part 2 – Use the passage above to answer the grammar questions.

Reading Comprehension

1. Which three characters were left stranded in a forest? _____

2. According to the passage, what was Red Riding Hood taking to her grandmother?

3. What was strange about the cottage which Hansel and Gretel discovered?

4. How did the wood cutter save Little Red Riding Hood? _____

5. In the tale of Snow White how did the huntsman deceive the wicked queen?

6. With whom did Snow White live in the forest? _____

7. How many times did the wicked queen attempt to kill Snow White?

8. How is the ending to Little red Riding Hood different to the other tales?

9. How do you think you would feel if you were left alone in a forest?

10. Who do you think was the bravest of the characters mentioned and why?

Grammar Practice

1. (Paragraph 1) famous forests is an example of
a) personification b) alliteration c) simile d) metaphor
2. (Paragraph 2) What part of speech are the words ‘clever’ and ‘wicked’?
a) verb b) adverb c) adjective d) noun
3. (Paragraph 2) Another word for ‘demise’ could be
a) celebration b) cottage c) death d) friend
4. (Paragraph 3) ‘wore’ is an example of
a) past tense b) present tense c) future tense d) conditional
5. (Paragraph 4) Another word for ‘lopped’ could be
a) laughed b) chopped c) stroked d) watched
6. (Paragraph 5) An antonym (opposite) of ‘beautiful’ could be
a) ugly b) wonderful c) gorgeous d) plain
7. (Paragraph 5) What part of speech is ‘fortunately’?
a) noun b) verb c) adjective d) adverb
8. (Paragraph 5) ‘Even he was moved by her beauty’ means
a) Her beauty made him run away b) Her beauty made him shake
c) Her beauty made him disobey his instructions d) She was ugly
9. (Paragraph 6) What type of noun is ‘they’?
a) pronoun b) common noun c) proper noun d) collective noun
10. (Paragraph 6) Another meaning for ‘survived’ could be
a) died b) destroyed c) lived through d) lost

Grammar Practice – ANSWERS ARE UNDERLINED

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