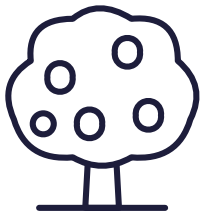
Poem

Level 3 · Year 2 · Grade 2

The Old Tree





In spring, the old tree wakes from sleep,
With tiny buds that start to peep.
The birds come back to build a nest
Up high, where baby birds can rest.

In summer, it is green and wide,
A shady place where children hide.
Its leaves go whispering in the breeze,
A secret song for bugs and bees.

In autumn, leaves turn red and gold.
They tumble down when nights get cold.
We crunch them, kick them, jump and run,
And toss them high. It's so much fun!

In winter, every branch is bare.
It stretches, shivering, in the air.
But deep inside, the tree's asleep,
And dreams of buds that start to peep.

Questions: The Old Tree

Name _____ Date _____

1. **In which season do the birds come back to build a nest? Tick one.** Find it 1b

   ☐ spring ☐ summer ☐ winter

2. **"Its leaves go whispering in the breeze." The word whispering tells you the sound is... Tick one.** Word meaning 1a

   ☐ loud and sharp ☐ soft and quiet ☐ like thunder

3. **Find and copy the word that rhymes with gold.** Word meaning 1a

   _____

4. **Look at the winter verse. Find and copy one word that means "with nothing on it".** Word meaning 1a

   _____

5. **Number these lines 1 to 4 in the order the seasons come in the poem.** In order 1c

   ☐ The leaves turn red and gold.
   ☐ Tiny buds start to peep.
   ☐ Every branch is bare.
   ☐ Children hide in the shade.

6. **What do the children do with the leaves in autumn? Write two things.** Find it 1b

   _____

   _____

7. **The poem says the tree is asleep in winter. What do you think the poet means?** Think it 1d

   _____

   _____

   _____

Answers: The Old Tree

Accept answers in the child's own words that show the same understanding.

1 **In which season do the birds come back to build a nest? Tick one.** Find it 1b

☑ spring ☐ summer ☐ winter

In the text: "In spring, the old tree wakes from sleep," … "The birds come back to build a nest"

2 **"Its leaves go whispering in the breeze." The word whispering tells you the sound is… Tick one.** Word meaning 1a

☐ loud and sharp ☑ soft and quiet ☐ like thunder

In the text: "Its leaves go whispering in the breeze,"

3 **Find and copy the word that rhymes with gold.** Word meaning 1a

cold

In the text: "They tumble down when nights get cold."

4 **Look at the winter verse. Find and copy one word that means "with nothing on it".** Word meaning 1a

bare

In the text: "In winter, every branch is bare."

5 **Number these lines 1 to 4 in the order the seasons come in the poem.** In order 1c

3 The leaves turn red and gold.

1 Tiny buds start to peep.

4 Every branch is bare.

2 Children hide in the shade.

In the text: "With tiny buds that start to peep.", then "A shady place where children hide.", then "leaves turn red and gold", then "every branch is bare"

6 **What do the children do with the leaves in autumn? Write two things.** Find it 1b

crunch them, kick them, jump, run, toss them high (any two)

In the text: "We crunch them, kick them, jump and run," … "And toss them high."

7 **The poem says the tree is asleep in winter. What do you think the poet means?** Think it 1d

Possible answer: The tree is resting and not growing. It will grow new buds again in spring.

In the text: "But deep inside, the tree's asleep," … "And dreams of buds that start to peep."

Answers: The Old Tree (continued)

Accept answers in the child's own words that show the same understanding.

Facts checked against: Woodland Trust: why do leaves change colour?.