

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



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## Pip and the Quiet Friend

By Dan Greco

**P**ip, a nimble squirrel, scampered through the whispering leaves, his bushy tail drooping. He was bothered by his friend, Barnaby Bear, who had suddenly become quiet and withdrawn. Pip usually knew just what to do, but

Barnaby's silence was a puzzle.

Pip decided to visit Orion, the wise old owl. His perch atop the tallest oak tree offered a view of the entire forest, and often, of the big picture of what was really going on.

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"Orion," Pip chirped,  
"Barnaby isn't acting like himself.  
He just grunts when I try to play  
with him, and he won't share his  
berries. I hope Barnaby isn't mad  
at me. I don't think I did anything  
to make him upset with me."

Orion blinked slowly and  
hooted. "Pip, sometimes, when  
a strong tree loses a branch, it  
needs time to heal. It doesn't



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offered a different way of seeing  
Barnaby's quietness.

Pip remembered Barnaby  
mentioning his favorite berry bush  
had withered. Maybe Barnaby  
wasn't being unfriendly, but was  
just feeling blue.

Instead of pestering Barnaby,  
Pip found a different berry bush  
full of ripe berries. He gathered  
a small pile of the juiciest berries  
he could find and left them near  
Barnaby's den. He then settled

the first time in days, offered a  
gentle nudge with his nose.

Other animals watched. They  
saw Pip's patience, born from  
Orion's wisdom and Pip's own  
caring heart. When young rabbits  
squabbled or beavers felt left  
out, they remembered Pip and  
Barnaby. They learned that  
considering more than what is  
evident builds stronger bonds, like  
roots deepening after a gentle  
rain.

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1. Reread the quote from the story. Then answer the question below.

*"Pip, sometimes, when a strong tree loses a branch, it needs time to heal. It doesn't mean it no longer loves the forest, just that it's tending to itself."*



What did Orion mean when he said this to Pip?

- a. Sometimes friends need time alone to heal when they are sad or hurt.
- b. Trees can get sick and need help from animals.
- c. Barnaby didn't like the forest anymore.



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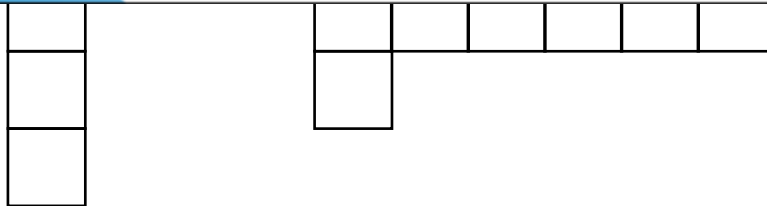
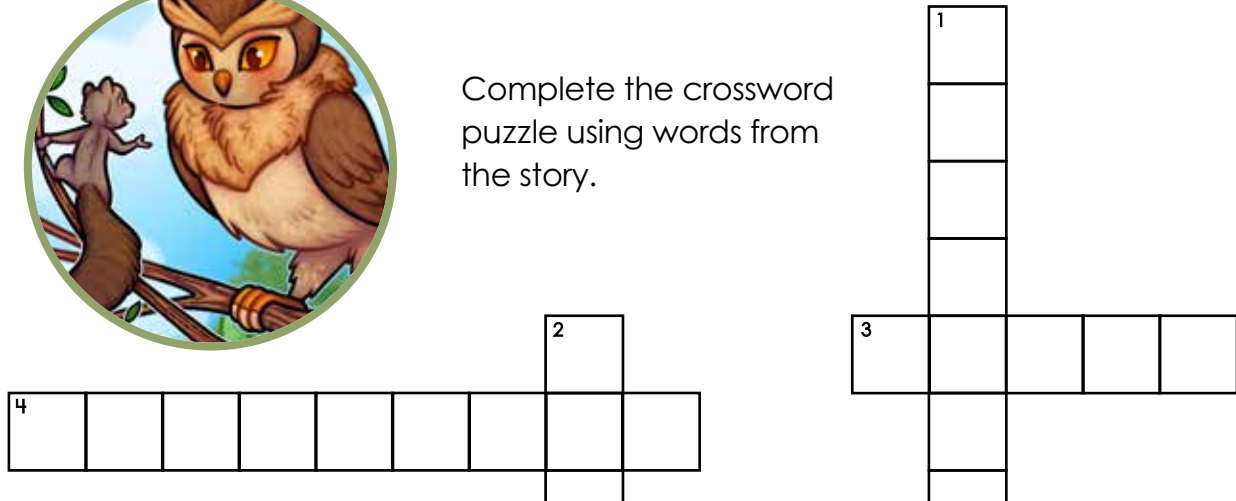
3. What does it mean to "consider more than what is evident"?
- a. to look only at what you can see on the surface
  - b. to ignore what others are feeling
  - c. to make quick judgments about someone's behavior
  - d. to think about what might be happening from a different perspective
4. What did the other animals learn from watching Pip and Barnaby?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
5. What two things are compared in the simile in the last sentence?
- a. building a house and a rainstorm
  - b. rabbits squabbling and roots deepening
  - c. stronger bonds and roots deepening
  - d. learning and a gentle rain

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# Pip and the Quiet Friend



Complete the crossword puzzle using words from the story.



## Down:

1. The bear \_\_\_\_\_ through the woods, heavy paws crunching over fallen leaves.
2. "Elly, stop \_\_\_\_\_ me! I'm trying to finish my homework!" exclaimed Theo.
5. synonym for *apparent* or *obvious*

## Across:

3. The kitten sat on its favorite \_\_\_\_\_ by the window.
4. Elise and her brother \_\_\_\_\_ over who would get the last piece of cake.
6. dried out or shriveled
7. antonym for *outgoing*; *extroverted*
8. quick and light in motion

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# Pip and the Quiet Friend



In the story, "Pip and the Quiet Friend," Pip learns about the importance of considering a different perspective. Write about a time when you had to think about something from a different perspective. Is this a strength of yours?

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## ANSWER KEY

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2. What two things are compared in the simile in the last sentence?

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## ANSWER KEY

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