The Secret of the Whispering Woods

Leo loved spending Saturdays at his grandmother's cabin, right at the edge of Pine Ridge Forest. Unlike the noisy city where Leo lived, the forest was full of gentle sounds: the rustle of dry leaves, the distant tapping of a woodpecker, and the soft *whoosh* of wind through the tall pine trees. Grandma always called it the "Whispering Woods" because, if you stood very still, it sounded like the trees were sharing secrets.

One crisp October morning, Leo decided to explore the trail behind the garden. He packed a small backpack with a magnifying glass, a notebook, and a shiny red apple. As he walked deeper into the woods, he noticed something unusual near the base of an old oak tree. A trail of tiny blue pebbles led off the main path and disappeared under a curtain of hanging moss.

Curious, Leo pushed the moss aside. Behind it was a hollow inside the oak trunk, just big enough for a small woodland creature. Inside the hollow, someone had arranged a neat little bed of dry moss, three acorn caps stacked like tiny bowls, and a shiny silver button that Leo recognized immediately—it had fallen off his winter coat the last time he visited!

Leo smiled and placed his shiny red apple right next to the acorn bowls. He didn't know if a clever squirrel, a curious magpie, or a tiny forest sprite lived in the oak tree, but he knew one thing for sure: he had just made a new friend in the Whispering Woods.

Reading Comprehension Activities

Part 1: Multiple Choice

Circle the best answer for each question.

1. **Why did Grandma call the forest the "Whispering Woods"?**
   - A) Because people were not allowed to talk loudly there.
   - B) Because the wind through the trees sounded like they were sharing secrets.
   - C) Because the birds only sang in quiet voices.
   - D) Because there was a secret clubhouse hidden in the trees.
2. **What led Leo off the main trail?**
   - A) A singing woodpecker
   - B) A trail of shiny silver buttons
   - C) A trail of tiny blue pebbles
   - D) His grandmother calling him
3. **What did Leo find inside the hollow oak tree that belonged to him?**
   - A) His magnifying glass
   - B) A silver button from his coat
   - C) His blue notebook
   - D) A red scarf

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Part 2: Short Answer

Answer each question using complete sentences.

4. **How was the forest different from the place where Leo lived?**
5. **What did Leo leave behind inside the tree hollow, and why do you think he did that?**

Part 3: Vocabulary Match

Draw a line to match each word from the story with its correct meaning.

Word	Meaning
1. Crisp	A) Empty space inside something solid
2. Curious	B) Cool, fresh, and brisk
3. Hollow	C) Eager to learn or know more about something

Part 4: Creative Thinking & Drawing Box

Imagine who lives inside the oak tree! Was it a squirrel, a bird, or a magical forest creature? In the box below, draw a picture of the creature enjoying Leo's apple, or write two sentences describing what happens when the creature comes home.

(Leave a blank box here for drawing/writing)

Answer Key (For Teacher/Parent Use)

- **Part 1:** 1. B | 2. C | 3. B
- **Part 2:**
  - 4. The forest was quiet and full of gentle nature sounds, whereas the city where Leo lived was noisy.
  -

LIVEWORKSHEETS

5. He left his shiny red apple as a gift/treat to make friends with whoever lived in the tree.

- **Part 3:** 1. B | 2. C | 3. A

LIVEWORKSHEETS