

Reading Comprehension: The Hedgehog in the Leaves

Read the story and the fact file, then answer the questions.

Name _____ Date _____ Class _____

Learning objective: I can find information in a text and explain what I have read.

✓ I look back at the text to find answers ✓ I can explain what a word means ✓ I can put events in order

The Hedgehog in the Leaves

It was a cold, windy evening in October. Ruby and her grandad were sweeping leaves into a big pile at the bottom of the garden.

“Listen!” whispered Grandad. Something was snuffling and rustling under the leaves. Ruby held her breath. Slowly, a small brown face with a black, shiny nose poked out. It was a hedgehog!

“Don’t touch it,” said Grandad gently. “Hedgehogs are wild animals. Let’s give it some space.”

Ruby watched the hedgehog shuffle across the grass. It sniffed the ground and gobbled up a beetle. “Is it hungry?” she asked.

“Very,” said Grandad. “It needs to eat lots before winter. Soon it will curl up in a cosy nest and sleep until spring. That’s called hibernating.”

That night, Ruby helped Grandad put out a shallow dish of water and some meaty cat food. In the morning, the dish was empty. Ruby smiled. “I think our hedgehog liked its dinner,” she said.

Hedgehog Facts

Where do they live? Hedgehogs live in gardens, parks, hedges and woods across the UK.

When are they awake? Hedgehogs are *nocturnal*. This means they sleep in the day and look for food at night.

What do they eat? They eat beetles, worms, caterpillars and slugs. Never give a hedgehog milk – it makes them poorly. Water is best.

What about winter? From about November to March, many hedgehogs hibernate in nests made of leaves.

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1 Find it Look back at the story. Circle the right answer.

- 1 What were Ruby and Grandad doing?
Ⓐ planting seeds Ⓑ sweeping leaves Ⓒ feeding the birds
- 2 What did the hedgehog eat in the garden?
Ⓐ a beetle Ⓑ a worm Ⓒ an apple
- 3 What did Ruby and Grandad put out for the hedgehog?
Ⓐ milk and bread Ⓑ water and cat food Ⓒ seeds and nuts

2 Think about it Write your answers in full sentences.

- 1 Why did Grandad say “Don’t touch it”?

- 2 Find and copy **one** word that tells you how Grandad spoke.

- 3 What does *nocturnal* mean?

- 4 How do you know the hedgehog came back in the night?

- 5 Why should you never give a hedgehog milk?

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3 Order the story Number the events 1 to 5 in the order they happened.

☐

A Ruby helps put out water and cat food.

☐

B Ruby and Grandad sweep leaves into a pile.

☐

C Ruby finds the dish is empty.

☐

D The hedgehog eats a beetle.

☐

E A hedgehog pokes its nose out of the leaves.

4 True or false? Use the hedgehog facts to help you.

	TRUE	FALSE
1 Hedgehogs look for food at night.	☐	☐
2 Hedgehogs only live in woods.	☐	☐
3 Many hedgehogs hibernate in winter.	☐	☐
4 Hedgehogs eat slugs and worms.	☐	☐

5 What next?

1 What do you think Ruby will do the next evening? Use the story to explain your idea.

Answer Key

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Question	Answers
1 Find it	1 B (sweeping leaves); 2 A (a beetle); 3 B (water and cat food)
2 Think about it	1. Because hedgehogs are wild animals and need space (they should not be handled). 2. whispered or gently 3. Awake/active at night and asleep in the day. 4. In the morning the dish was empty – it had eaten the food. 5. Because it makes them poorly (ill).
3 Order the story	Correct order: B, E, D, A, C Ruby and Grandad sweep leaves into a pile. → A hedgehog pokes its nose out of the leaves. → The hedgehog eats a beetle. → Ruby helps put out water and cat food. → Ruby finds the dish is empty.
4 True or false?	1 True ; 2 False – they also live in gardens, parks and hedges; 3 True ; 4 True
5 What next?	1. Any sensible prediction linked to the text, e.g. she will put out more water and food and watch for the hedgehog.

Teaching note: the story and fact file are original. Questions cover retrieval, vocabulary, inference, sequencing and prediction, as in the KS1 reading content domains. Accept any answer that is clearly supported by the text.