

Break Work
ELA

Read the passages. Then answer questions 1–10.

Treehouse Guests

- 1 Spring was commencing: the trees were bright with vibrant leaves, and daffodils were fresh in bloom. Jake and Tommy could just barely detect the scent of cherry blossoms on the wind as they climbed in their backyard treehouse. It wasn't really a treehouse—just a big oak tree with low, thick branches—but they imagined it to be a house, with many rooms, wide windows, and a grand, winding stairway.
- 2 "Tommy, look!" Jake shouted to his brother below and, at his boisterous exclamation, a bird fluttered from behind him and hid herself. Looking somewhat embarrassed, Jake spoke more softly: "That bird that just flew away. She has a nest up on that branch."
- 3 Tommy squinted in the direction his brother was pointing, and there, tucked safely between a few leafy branches, was a small gray-brown nest. "Should we ask Mom about it?" he whispered.
- 4 Within minutes, the boys stood below the tree with their mother, who had been watching them from the window.
- 5 "Boys," she said seriously, "try not to go too close to the nest. Your new responsibility is to protect the mama bird and her eggs by finding a new place to play."

- 6 Tommy gazed at his mom with big eyes, his expression concerned and sympathetic for the bird and her eggs.
- 7 “Mom,” Tommy asked, “how can we help her protect her babies?”
- 8 Jake scowled at his brother. He had nothing against birds, but the treehouse was his sanctuary; he went there to play, to read, to get away from the world—it was *his* spot.
- 9 Jake saw Tommy and his mother sit down to devise a plan to protect the fledgling family. He crossed his arms and grumbled under his breath when Tommy looked over at him expectantly. He shut his eyes and reminisced about his favorite place in the tree, where he would look out from his high perch at the happenings below. But then his mind drifted to the bird that had fled when he spoke too loudly, and of the helpless newborns that would soon be pecking their way out of their eggs. Jake opened his eyes and sighed: he could give up his tree for just a little while. Smiling at his younger brother, he suggested they each surrender a bit of their lawn-mowing money to buy birdseed.
- 10 “We’ll leave some out in a bowl,” Jake explained. “Then the mother bird won’t need to search everywhere for food, and she can spend more time with the eggs.”
- 11 So as the flowers burst into blooms around the yard and the season’s warm sun stretched over the skies, Tommy and Jake resolved to share their beloved treehouse in order to keep the birds safe and fed. They continued sharing it, even after they began hearing the soft, hoarse cheeping of newly hatched baby birds. Knowing they’d have their treehouse back soon, the boys found places to play nearby, watching the baby birds grow through Jake’s binoculars and proud to help protect and bring forth some of spring’s brightest gifts.



Spring Discovery

- 1 This April morning, I heard something
2 Small and bright and sweet.
3 It seemed to drift in through the window,
4 Like the sunshine's heat—
5 But when I looked outside, I noticed
6 Nothing but the street.
- 7 It sounded low and lovely, almost
8 Like a lullaby.
9 I grabbed my sister's arm and whispered,
10 "Come and help me try
11 To find where this song's coming from!" And
12 So went she and I.

- 13 We found her just outside our kitchen
14 Window: one small dove.
15 She'd built a nest of twigs and leaves, some
16 Fabric bits, and love—
17 Or so we guessed, from where we stood and
18 Watched her up above.
- 19 On tippy-toes we saw her lovely
20 Face: alert and pale.
21 But with our father's help, once lifted
22 We could see her tail
23 And feathered wings and feet and under
24 Her—did our eyes fail?
- 25 We each looked twice, from ten feet back, and
26 Whispered quietly:
27 "She has three little eggs in there!" And
28 Dad looked, too, to see.
29 Then he told us to watch and wait, but
30 Do so carefully.
- 31 If we came up too close, the mother
32 Would be scared away.
33 But if we could endure the wait, she
34 Probably would stay
35 And we might see, from those frail eggs,
36 Three baby birds, one day.
- 37 And so we watched and waited, list'ning
38 To the dove's sweet song.
39 For hours, days, and weeks, we hoped and
40 Wished they'd come along—
41 Till one warm day when we heard chirping:
42 Tiny, shrill, yet strong.

1. This question has two parts. Answer Part A first. Then answer Part B.

Part A Read this sentence from paragraph 2 of "Treehouse Guests."

"Tommy, look!" Jake shouted to his brother below and, at his boisterous exclamation, a bird fluttered from behind him and hid herself.

What does the word exclamation mean as it is used in this sentence?

- A** a brave action
- B** a complaint about a situation
- C** a sudden loud or excited statement
- D** a description that helps someone understand a word or idea

Part B What word from paragraph 2 helps readers understand the meaning of exclamation?

- A** below
- B** shouted
- C** fluttered
- D** embarrassed

Practice Test 3 • Treehouse Guests • Spring Discovery

Name _____

Date _____

2. Summarize "Treehouse Guests." Decide which statements belong in a summary, and number them in the order they occurred in the story.

- _____ Jake is upset that he has been told to stop using his treehouse.
- _____ The mother bird is beautiful, and her babies would be adorable.
- _____ Jake and Tommy use binoculars to watch the baby birds grow.
- _____ While climbing in his treehouse, Jake discovers that a bird has built a nest there.
- _____ Jake realizes he would be giving up his treehouse for only a little while.
- _____ Jake and Tommy's treehouse is in a big oak tree in their backyard.
- _____ Jake and Tommy imagine their tree has windows, rooms, and a stairway.
- _____ Mom tells Jake and Tommy to find a different place to play.

Name _____ Date _____

3. Choose two inferences you can make about Jake in "Treehouse Guests" that support the inference that Jake is thoughtful. Check the box next to each detail you choose.

- ☐ He enjoys nature and being outside.
- ☐ He doesn't care about other people's feelings.
- ☐ He thinks carefully about things.
- ☐ He gets angry when he doesn't get his own way.
- ☐ He is very good at building treehouses.
- ☐ He doesn't get along with his brother.

Practice Test 3 • Treehouse Guests • Spring Discovery

Name _____ Date _____

4. Read the following lines from "Spring Discovery."

And we might see, from those frail eggs,
Three baby birds, one day.

What is the definition of frail as it is used in the poem?

- A thin
- B physically weak
- C easily broken or delicate
- D easily tempted

5. How does stanza 4 of the poem add to the plot of "Spring Discovery"?

- A It adds suspense as the narrator sees something interesting.
- B It helps readers to better understand what the dove looks like.
- C It shows readers how important the father is to the narrator.
- D It builds concern as the narrator describes the bird's pale face.

Name _____ Date _____

6. This question has two parts. Answer Part A first. Then answer Part B.

Part A What is a theme of "Spring Discovery"?

- A The beauty of song
- B New discoveries
- C The importance of family
- D Building a home

Part B Which lines support the answer to Part A?

- A But when I looked outside, I noticed / Nothing but the street.
- B It sounded low and lovely, almost / Like a lullaby.
- C She'd built a nest of twigs and leaves, some / Fabric bits, and love—
- D She has three little eggs in there!' And / Dad looked, too, to see.

Practice Test 3 • Treehouse Guests • Spring Discovery

Name _____ Date _____

7. How do the characters in both "Treehouse Guests" and "Spring Discovery" know when the eggs have hatched?

- A They see the babies fly away.
- B They hear the babies chirping.
- C They notice eggshells on the ground.
- D They notice the mother bringing food to the nest.

Name _____ Date _____

8. How does the author show that Jake and Tommy feel differently about sharing their treehouse with the birds? Use details from the passage to support your answer.

9. Is the speaker in "Spring Discovery" more like Jake or Tommy in "Treehouse Guests"? Use details from the passages to support your answer.

Name _____ Date _____

- 10.** What common theme do the passages “Treehouse Guests” and “Spring Discovery” share? Use details from each passage to support your answer.

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