

THE LAUGHTER IN THE STARRY FOREST



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Ellie



Mete



Beste

The Laughter in the Starry Forest

In the greenest town of a beautiful city, there lived three inseparable friends: Mete, Ellie, and Beste. They were 11 years old and their hearts were beating to the rhythm of nature and the planet. Their favourite meeting spot was the tree at the beginning of the Starry Forest. This tree was very old and big. Its strong branches were always ready for a new story. Under its shade, these kids shared a lot of adventures. You could find them there after school. On that day after school, the sun was shining brightly on the path to the Starry Forest. Mete was carrying his rucksack. It was full of sandwiches. His friend, Beste was singing a funny song. Ellie was already pointing at a busy bee near some flowers.

"Are we there yet, Mete?" Beste asked. Her voice sounded a little tired. "My feet are hurting and I guess I saw a big spider. It looked like Jupiter!" Mete laughed. "No spider is that big, Beste! We are almost there. Remember, we are exploring today. We will find many secrets in the Starry Forest!"

Ellie was looking at small things in nature, and she



joyfully cheered, "Look! A tiny bird!" The bird was singing very loudly.

They were walking deeper into the forest. The sunlight was dancing on the ground. The sun was burning hot. They were on a special trip today. Mete called it a science trip. He wanted to find strange things. The Earth had a lot of secrets that no one knew about.

"You know," Mete said. He was pretending to wear an explorer's hat. "The Earth is a good planet for life. It has water and air, but what if other places have strange things, too?"

Beste rolled her eyes. "Mete, you read too many adventure books. The only 'mystery' we will find here is a hungry rabbit stealing our snacks."

Ellie was interested. "Mete, what about places like the Arctic? Scientists say it's very cold. Could strange things exist there?"

"Exactly, Ellie!" Mete smiled. "The Arctic is a cool place. It is covered with ice. It has ice at the top and bottom, like the ends of the Earth! There could be big and old houses under the snow."

They continued their walk. The path was getting a bit more difficult. Beste was trying to catch a butterfly while Ellie was looking closely at a grey stone.

"This stone is so nice," Ellie whispered. "It feels like it came here a long time ago."

Mete quickly picked up the stone. "Ellie, this is not just any stone! It could be from space! Perhaps, it travelled for a long time to reach our planet!"



Beste stopped running after the butterfly and looked at the stone. "It looks like a normal rock to me, Mete. Can you just enjoy the view? The sky is so blue today."

"Beste, you don't understand!" said Mete. He held the stone carefully. "If you think about it, you will understand me. Imagine this rock fell from the sky. It means there is more than dust out there!"

Suddenly, something moved in the bushes. A small rabbit! It was surprised by their loud voices, ran across the path, and disappeared.

"Wow!" Beste shouted. "It was so fast! Like a quick star!"

They reached an open area with a big, old tree. Its branches were wide, good for climbing. Mete said this was their "secret place".

"Okay, team," Mete said. He took out a map from his rucksack. "My map says, if we look at the sun and the wind from the west, we can be near the Starry Cave. People say it has hidden secrets!"

Beste rolled her eyes again. "Mete, the Starry Cave is just a big hole where squirrels store nuts."

"You shouldn't be so negative, Beste!" said Mete. "We need to look inside. We could find a lot of things! We could even find a new kind of insect!"

They decided to eat their lunch first. Mete took out sandwiches, apples, and juice. While they were eating, a playful monkey was swinging from a tree. It was watching them.



"Look, a monkey!" said Ellie. Her eyes were wide. "It's so cute!"

"We shouldn't feed wild animals," said Mete. He remembered what his dad told him. "It's not good for them. We need to stay away from them."

Beste couldn't stop herself. She took a slice of her apple and held it to the monkey. The monkey quickly took it and went back to the tree.

"Beste, you shouldn't do that! Now it will expect food from people," said Mete sadly.

"Oh, relax, Mete," laughed Beste. "It was just a small slice of apple. It will not harm the environment."

After lunch, they continued to walk through the Starry Forest. The path became a bit muddy. They needed to be careful. Ellie was busy looking for interesting insects. Beste was trying to notice different bird sounds.

"I think that's a parrot!" whispered Beste, pointing to a colourful bird. "Or maybe, it's a very special bird! It's so bright!"

Mete was still holding his "space rock" and looking at the ground for strange tracks. "If there are new animals, they probably leave strange footprints -not like a bear or a deer."

Suddenly, Mete stopped. He pointed to a small opening on the side of a rocky hill. "There it is, the Starry Cave!"

Beste looked into the dark opening. "It just looks like a cave, Mete. Are you sure it's not just where a snake lives?"



"We need to go inside!" said Mete. He was very excited. "Who knows what we will find! We could find old pictures on the walls! Or a secret message!"

Ellie was careful and curious. "What if it's dangerous? What if there's a very big bear inside?"

"We will be careful," Mete told her. "We shouldn't go too far. We will just look at the entrance." He took out a small flashlight from his rucksack.

When they stepped inside the cave, the air got colder. It was cool and wet. The air smelled of earth and something else, a little like metal. The light from Mete's torch moved on the walls, they saw shadows.

"It's so dark in here," whispered Beste. She was holding Ellie's arm. "I feel like we are in a dark place!"

"This is amazing!" said Mete quietly. His eyes were wide. "Look at these rocks! They're so unusual. They could be from deep underground!"

Ellie pointed to something shiny on the cave floor. "What's that, Mete? It's sparkling."

Mete replied, surprised. "It's glowing! I have seen it in my books! It is energy! It could be a rare rock which gives light!"

While they were looking at the glowing thing, they heard a sound in the cave. The floor moved under their feet.

"What was that?" asked Beste curiously. She jumped back.

Suddenly, a lot of tiny lights appeared in the dark part of the cave. A very cute and crowded rabbit family!



They were the source of the voice and movement. They blinked slowly.

“Oh!” screamed Beste cheerfully. She pulled Mete and Ellie towards the entrance. “It’s a rabbit family! They are so cute. I told you, Mete! There is nothing strange here.”

Mete was standing, he could only stare at the blinking eyes. Ellie was the first to move. She grabbed her friends’ hands and pulled them. “We need to go now. We shouldn’t disturb these animals. This cave is their home!”

They ran out of the cave and looked at each other. Beste started to laugh.

“Strange things? Rocks from other planets?” she said, laughing.

Mete’s face turned red and Ellie started to laugh, too.

They carefully went closer to the cave again and looked at the rabbits from a safe distance. The rabbits were sleeping. Mete was feeling a bit shy. He looked at the small rock in his hands again. It wasn’t an energy source or a rare rock. It was just an ordinary rock.

“Well,” said Mete, trying to feel better, “We couldn’t find new things but we still discovered a cave of a rabbit family. That’s very cool.”

They walked back through the forest; the sun began to go down. The sky was full of beautiful colours. The air was full of nature sounds and leaves were moving gently.

“You know,” said Ellie, “There aren’t interesting things to



explore in caves, but the Earth is still a very amazing planet. All these animals, the trees, the rivers... It's wonderful."

Mete was still a little embarrassed about his guesses. "You are right, Ellie," he said. "This forest and all the little things in it are precious and we need to keep it safe. We shouldn't drop plastic or make pollution, and we should always try to recycle."

Beste, surprisingly, agreed. "Yeah, and maybe next time, instead of looking for mysterious things, we could pick up litter, enjoy the view, and watch the birds fly. Animals are all around us!"

Mete smiled. "Maybe! If we find a hidden treasure, you are coming with me to explore the world. Unless, of course, there's a giant spider guarding it."

Beste laughed loudly. "In that case, you are on your own, Mete!"

They kept walking happily, you could hear their laughter in the quiet forest. The big mystery disappeared; the kids replaced it with the simple, nice feeling of their friendship and the beauty of their own planet.



EXERCISES

A. Read the sentences and write (T) True or (F) False.
Correct the false sentences.

☐ 1. Mete, Ellie, and Beste's favourite meeting spot was at the end of the Starry Forrest.

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☐ 2. The story took place on a rainy day.

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☐ 3. They discovered a rabbit family in the cave.

.....

☐ 4. Mete found a silver stone.

.....

☐ 5. The Starry Cave was hot.

.....

B. Answer the questions.

1. Which animals did they see in the story?

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2. What did Beste think about the grey stone?

.....

3. Why were there a lot of tiny lights in the cave?

.....

4. Why did Mete feel embarrassed?

.....

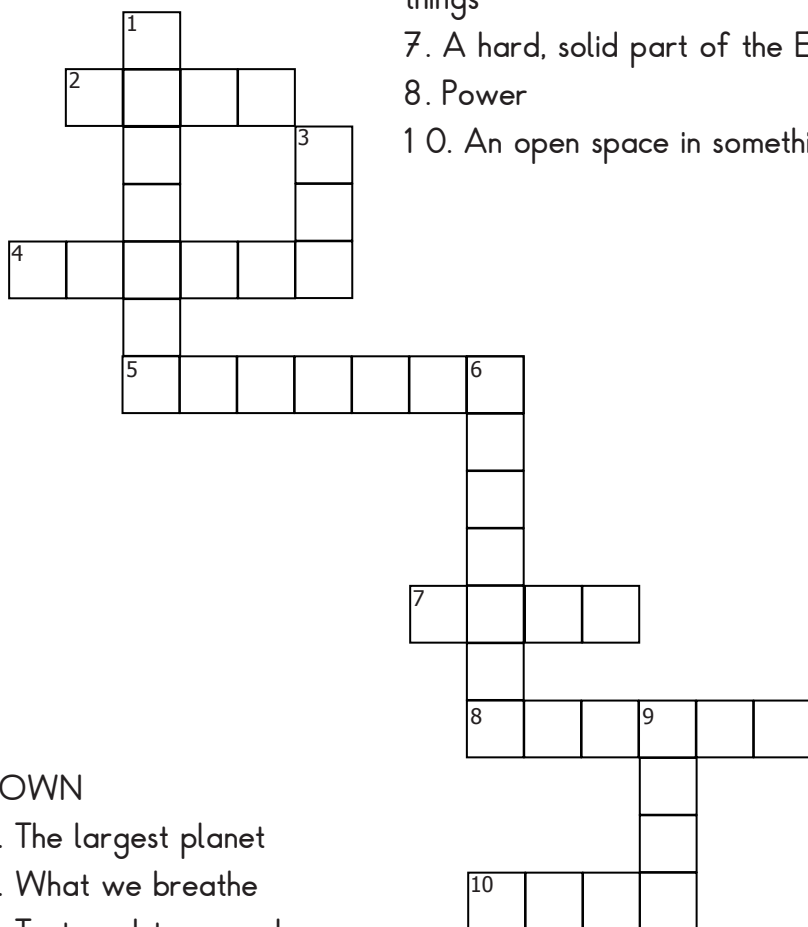
5. What did they decide to do at the end of the story?

.....

C. Use the clues and do the puzzle.

ACROSS

2. Tiny dry particles in the air
4. Trash on the ground
5. To make something new from old things
7. A hard, solid part of the Earth
8. Power
10. An open space in something



DOWN

1. The largest planet
3. What we breathe
6. To travel to new places
9. To go up

GLOSSARY

n: noun **v:** verb

adj: adjective **adv:** adverb

air (n): the mixture of gases that we breathe

appear (v): to come into view

Arctic (adj): very cold and related to the area around the North Pole

bear (n): a large, strong wild animal with thick fur

bee (n): an insect that makes honey and can sting

bird (n): an animal with feathers and wings that usually flies

blink (v): to quickly close and open your eyes

branch (n): a part of a tree that grows out from the trunk

bush (n): a short plant with many branches

butterfly (n): an insect with big, colourful wings

cave (n): a large hole in the side of a hill or under

the ground

crowded (adj): full of people, animals, or things

cool (adj): slightly cold or chilly

curious (adj): wanting to know or learn something

deer (n): a wild animal with long legs and antlers

disappear (v): to go out of sight, to become impossible to see

distance (n): the space between two things or places

drop (v): to let something fall

dust (n): tiny, dry pieces of dirt in the air or on surfaces

Earth (n): the planet we live on; soil or ground

embarrassed (adj): feeling shy or uncomfortable in a social situation

entrance (n): a door or way to go into a place

environment (n): the air, land, and water where people,

animals, and plants live
exist (v): to be real or to live
explore (v): to go and learn about a new place
flashlight (n): a small light you carry in your hand
floor (n): the bottom surface of a room
forest (n): a large area covered with trees
giant (adj): very big
glow (v): to shine with a soft light
guard (v): to protect or watch over something or someone
hill (n): a raised part of the ground, smaller than a mountain
hold (v): to have something in your hands or arms
hole (n): an empty space or opening in something
hurt (v): to cause pain
ice (n): water that is frozen and hard
insect (n): a small animal with six legs and a body

(like a bee or ant)
inseparable (adj): always together, cannot be separated
Jupiter (n): the largest planet in our solar system
keep away (v): to stay at a distance
litter (n): trash or garbage left on the ground
monkey (n): an animal with a tail that can climb trees
muddy (adj): covered with or full of wet, soft dirt
nature (n): all the plants, animals and things that exist in the universe, not made by people
parrot (n): a colourful bird that can copy sounds or words
pick up (v): to lift something from the ground
planet (n): a large round object in space that moves around a star
playful (adj): full of fun or wanting to play
pollution (n): dirty or harmful

things in the air, water, or land

pretend (v): to act like something is true when it is not

probably (adv): likely to happen or be true

pull (v): to move something closer by holding it

rabbit (n): a small animal with long ears and a short tail

recycle (v): to use old things to make something new

river (n): a long body of water that flows across land

rock (n): a hard piece of the ground

rocky (adj): full of rocks

safe (adj): not in danger

shade (n): a cooler, darker place out of the sun

shadow (n): a dark shape made when something blocks light

shiny (adj): bright and reflecting light

sky (n): the space above the Earth where the sun, moon, and clouds are

slice (n): a thin, flat piece of something

snake (n): a long, thin animal with no legs

source (n): where something comes from

space (n): the area beyond Earth where planets and stars are

sparkling (adj): shining with little flashes of light

spot (n): a small round mark or a particular place

spider (n): a small animal with eight legs that makes webs

squirrel (n): a small animal with a bushy tail that climbs trees

stare (v): to look at something for a long time

stone (n): a small, hard piece of rock

store (n): to keep something for future use

sunlight (n): light that comes

from the sun

swing (v): to move back
and forth

take out (v): to remove
something from a place

track (n): a path or line
made by people, animals,
or vehicles

underground (adj): under
the ground

wall (n): the side part of
a room or building

wet (adj): covered in
water or another liquid

whisper (v): to speak very
quietly

wild (adj): living in nature,
not kept by people

wind (n): moving air

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The references in this section have been prepared following the principles and formatting rules of the APA Style 6th Edition.

VISUAL REFERENCES

All visual materials in this book were prepared and provided by the commission.

ANSWER KEY



Answer Key



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