

e-future Classic Readers

LEVEL 5-4

The Fir Tree



Hans Christian Andersen

A Match the words to the correct definitions.

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|----------------|---|---|--|
| 1. youth | • | • | a. drops of water that form at night on grass, trees, etc. |
| 2. drag | • | • | b. very beautiful or impressive; very great |
| 3. tremble | • | • | c. the state or time of being young |
| 4. magnificent | • | • | d. to let out a long, loud breath to show an emotion |
| 5. sigh | • | • | e. to pull (something) with difficulty |
| 6. dew | • | • | f. to shake slightly because you are scared, excited, etc. |
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B Write the antonym for the given word. Change the form if needed.

uneasy brightness splendid whisper rejoice

- The wind whispered
shouted that the fir tree should enjoy his youth.
- The fire made the fir tree uneasy
relaxed .
- A gentleman shouted, "That one is splendid !"
terrible
- The servants lit the candles. What brightness !"
darkness
- He fell to the earth, but he did not rejoice
weep.

C Write the correct word to complete the sentence.

often still in the autumn soon in one year before

1. "I am still not that large," the fir tree sighed.
2. He knew the men would soon put him in the fire.
3. The mice had never heard such a story before.
4. Every year in the autumn, the woodcutters cut down some of the trees.
5. He grew a lot in one year.
6. The children often came and sat by the tree.

D Write your own sentences using the same pattern.

Subject Relative Clauses (Defining)

Defining relative clauses give important information about nouns. When the noun is the subject of a verb, the clause has this pattern: **noun + who/that/which + verb ...**

Use *that* or *which* when the noun is a thing.

Use *that* or *who* when it is a person or people.

- He didn't care for the little children. The little children ran about.
→ He didn't care for the little children that ran about.
- The story was about a poor man. The poor man married a princess.
→ The story was about a poor man who married a princess.

1. I met a girl. She has five brothers.
→ I met a girl who has five brothers.
2. That's the man. He cuts my hair.
→ That's the man who/that cuts my hair.
3. Andersen was an author. He wrote fairy tales.
→ Andersen was an author who/that wrote fairy tales.
4. Do you know the song? It is playing right now.
→ Do you know the song that/which is playing right now?

A Circle T for true or F for false. (pp. 6-13)

1. The little fir tree was in a place that didn't get sunshine and wind. T / ☒ F
2. The tree wanted to be bigger and older. ☒ T / F
3. Children said that he was a nice tree. ☒ T / F
4. Many trees were cut down and were used to build houses. T / ☒ F
5. Younger trees like the fir tree were cut down for Christmas. ☒ T / F
6. The sun told the tree that he should be happy to be alive. ☒ T / F

B Circle the right answer and write it in the blank. (pp. 14-22)

1. The fir tree felt sad when he was cut down.
excited / ☒ sad
2. When the servants decorated him, the tree didn't understand what was happening.
understood / ☒ didn't understand
3. The next day, the tree was put into a dark room.
☒ dark room / nice garden
4. He told the mice one story.
☒ one story / many stories
5. At the end of the story, we know that the tree will be burned.
☒ be burned / enjoy life

C Answer the questions.

1. Who told the fir tree where the big trees went?
a. The children **b.** The woodcutters **c.** The wind **d.** The birds
2. What happened after the servants in the mansion lit the candles? (p. 16)
a. The tree shook and a fire started.
b. The tree felt beautiful and proud.
c. The children blew out the candles.
3. What did the mice think about the tree's youth? (p. 18)
They thought it was splendid.
4. What did the tree's branches look like at the end of the story?
They were dried and yellow.

D Summarize the story. Write 1 or 2 words in each blank.

Beginning

A little fir tree stood in the woods. He had sun and fresh air, but he didn't care. He wanted to be grown up. He wished he were big enough to be a ship's mast.

Middle

At Christmas, young trees like him were cut down. They were then brought to mansions and decorated with lights. The fir tree was brought to a house, where servants put treats and candles on his branches. The next day, they dragged him outside and put him in a dark room. After some mice visited him a couple of times, he was alone.

End

One morning, men dragged him outside and built a fire. The tree knew it was over. He remembered his youth and wished he had rejoiced back then.