

Name: _____

The Haunted Tree

By Kelly Hashway

Mark turned the corner and stared at the empty bus stop. He swallowed hard and his hands started to shake. Being the first one there wouldn't be a problem if the old oak tree that marked



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bus stop wasn't so scary. But Mark was alone, and it was dark.

The oak tree's branches swayed in the breeze, and Mark heard the strange "Ooooh" that sometimes came from the center of the tree.

Mark hurried to the other side of the street, trying to stay as far away from the tree as possible. He didn't take his eyes off the tree. The bare branches looked like they were reaching out to grab him. He heard the "Ooooh, ooooh" again.

"I'm not afraid of you," Mark called in a shaky voice.

"Who are you talking to?" Will asked, walking up behind Mark.

Mark jumped. He turned to face Will and relaxed a little now that he

wasn't alone with the tree. Will stared at him, waiting for an answer.

"I thought I heard something." Mark shrugged and crossed the street, heading for the bus stop. Will followed.

"Maybe you heard the ghost in the tree," Will said.

"Oooh, oooh."

Mark and Will jumped.

Something moved across the hollowed out spot in the tree.

"There's something in the tree," Mark said. He stood on tiptoes and peeked inside. "It's an owl!"



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today," Mark said.

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1. Describe the setting of the story.

(Tell where and when the story takes place.)

2. What did Will think of the oak tree?



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4. List the correct order of these events. Write 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th on the lines.

- _____ Mark stood on his tiptoes and peeked inside the tree.
- _____ Mark was the first one to arrive at the bus stop.
- _____ Mark saw an owl in the tree.
- _____ Mark walked to the other side of the street because he was afraid.
- _____ Will arrived and both boys heard a ghost sound in the tree.

5. At the end of the story, what was Mark afraid of?

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Read each sentence. Look up the definition of each underlined word in the dictionary. Write each definition.



1: The oak tree's branches swayed in the breeze.



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3: Something moved across the hollowed out spot in the tree.

4: Mark shrugged and crossed the street.

ANSWER KEY

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1. Describe the setting of the story.

(Tell where and when the story takes place.)

The story takes place at the bus stop, early in the morning before sunrise.

Note: The story does not specifically mention the season of fall, but this may be implied by the picture.

2. What did Will think of the oak tree?

A cartoon superhero with brown hair, wearing a blue suit and a red cape, flying through the air. The cape has 'MJS' written on it. The background is blue with white clouds.

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4. List the correct order of these events. Write 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th on the lines.

4th Mark stood on his tiptoes and peeked inside the tree.

1st Mark was the first one to arrive at the bus stop.

5th Mark saw an owl in the tree.

2nd Mark walked to the other side of the street because he was afraid.

3rd Will arrived and both boys heard a ghost sound in the tree.

5. At the end of the story, what was Mark afraid of?

Mark was afraid of his math test.

ANSWER KEY

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Read each sentence. Look up the definition of each underlined word in the dictionary. Write each definition.



1: The oak tree's branches swayed in the breeze.

sway - the action of swaying, or moving back and forth.



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3: Something moved across the hollowed out spot in the tree.

hollow - to carve or form an opening in

4: Mark shrugged and crossed the street.

shrug - to raise the shoulders to express uncertainty
