

Talking to the Trees

Gap fill

Listen to the story and fill in the blanks.

Jim was a young boy who didn't like _____. He lived with his _____ in a small home close to a quiet farming _____. His mother cooked _____ on a wood stove. Jim's job was collecting firewood. _____ to the woods and collecting _____ took a long time. He didn't like that.

One day, he _____ to chop down a tree. His family would have _____ of firewood and he could _____ time. If he didn't go to the _____ every day, he could _____ more time playing with friends.

The _____ day, he went to the forest with an axe. He saw a _____ tree and decided to cut it down. Just before he _____ chopping, the tree _____. It asked, "Why do you want to cut me down? I _____ you coconuts to eat."

Jim _____ and thought the tree was right. He _____ not to cut it down.

Further down the _____, he saw a big apple tree. Just as he was about to cut, the tree spoke to him. It said, "Please don't cut me _____! If you do, you won't have any apples to eat."

That tree was also _____. So he left it alone and _____ down the path.

Jim kept _____, but every tree seemed to _____ something more valuable than firewood. He thought it was wrong to _____ a tree just so he could be a little _____.

Satisfied with his _____, he picked up some branches _____ on the ground and returned home. Along the way, he _____ that trees could continue to _____ his family over the long term if he left them _____.

Synonym match

Match the words or phrases.

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1. quiet | a. worthwhile |
| 2. path | b. peaceful |
| 3. valuable | c. content |
| 4. satisfied | d. understand |
| 5. realize | e. trail |

True or false

Choose the correct answer.

1. The boy lived in a rural community. T or F
2. Jim didn't mind collecting firewood. T or F
3. Jim went to the forest every day. T or F
4. He talked to the apple tree after the coconut tree. T or F
5. Rather than chopping down a tree, he collected sticks. T or F

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Anagrams

Move letters. Make a new word.

UHGHTOT _____

ESNHBCRA _____

CITLNLGEOC _____

DSYORTE _____

EDIDECD _____

EPKSO _____

ESL discussion questions

Talk about the story

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1. What is the story's setting?
 2. Why did the boy want to chop down trees?
 3. Retell the story from the perspective of a tree.
 4. What are the pros and cons of the using firewood for fuel?
 5. What message does the story teach?
 6. Do you agree with the message?
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Writing practice

Put the words in the correct order.

1. home / parents / small / village / to / a / his / in / lived / close / with / He / a / farming / quiet
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2. down / to / tree / a / day / he / chop / decided / One
-

3. right / and / Jim / was / tree / listened / thought / the
-

4. stove / meals / cooked / a / on / His / wood / mother
-

5. coconut / it / to / down / saw / a / tree / decided / cut / He / and
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