

Progress Monitoring Probe 20

The Food Tree

Long ago, a group of animals lived deep in the forest. Every single one of these animals was gaunt and hungry, except for one, Bear. Early each morning, Bear left home and didn't return until nightfall. The other animals wondered where Bear went, but no one had the time or the energy to ask her because they were all too busy looking for food.	12
One day, Fox said to the animals, "Yesterday Bear smelled like a peach, and I think she had been eating fruit."	74
Deer looked thoughtful and then made a suggestion. "Why doesn't someone follow her to find out where she goes every day?" The animals all nodded their heads in agreement and began discussing who could follow Bear without being seen.	94
Finally, they decided that tiny Mouse should track Bear the following day.	105
When Mouse returned the next evening, he announced that Bear had led him to the biggest tree in the world. He explained that each branch of the enormous tree grew a different kind of food. He had seen sweet bananas, juicy cherries, and perfectly ripened squash. The animals decided to see for themselves and hurried to the tree. They found Bear hungrily munching on a delicious melon.	115
"The branches are too high for us all to reach," said Deer, "so we'll have to chop down the tree." The other animals agreed to cooperate in the effort, and soon every animal was hard at work.	124
The birds used their pointed beaks, the lions used their sharp claws, and the rabbits used their long teeth to weaken the tree.	134
Finally, after three days of unceasing toil, the great tree toppled to the ground, causing the whole earth to tremble.	136
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	228
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The Food Tree (Continued)

Immediately, lemon trees sprouted where the lemon branch hit the ground, and tomato plants sprouted where the tomato branch hit the ground. The animals looked surprised because lemon trees and tomato plants had never existed before. Soon, different kinds of foods were growing from the ground everywhere the animals looked.	291
A cheer arose from the group. They knew that because they had worked together, there would now be food for all the animals and people in the world to share.	301
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