

Passage Comprehension 1

Grade 4

The Town That Saved Its Trees

In the small town of Meadowbrook, an unusual story unfolded that taught its residents the true value of their green neighbors. For generations, the massive oak trees that lined Main Street had been the town's pride. These century-old giants provided cool shade during summer, housed countless birds and squirrels, and gave the town its distinctive character. Every autumn, their leaves turned brilliant shades of red and gold, attracting visitors from neighboring cities who came to photograph their beauty.

However, when the town council announced plans to widen Main Street to accommodate increasing traffic, these beloved trees faced the threat of being cut down. The proposal suggested removing thirty oak trees to make way for an additional lane on each side of the road. The council argued that this would reduce traffic congestion and make the town more modern and accessible.

This news spread quickly through Meadowbrook, and soon the townspeople began discussing alternatives. Sarah Chen, a twelve-year-old student, started a campaign called "Save Our Shade" with her classmates. They researched the environmental benefits of mature trees and discovered that these oaks absorbed large amounts of carbon dioxide, prevented soil erosion, and significantly reduced summer temperatures in the town center.

The children's initiative inspired adults to join the cause. Local engineers proposed a modified road design that would curve slightly around the largest trees. Though this plan would cost more and take longer to implement, it would preserve most of the historic oaks. Business owners along Main Street realized that the trees actually attracted customers, who enjoyed shopping and dining under the natural canopy.

After three months of community meetings and discussions, the town council called for a vote. The results were overwhelming – eighty-five percent of Meadowbrook's residents chose to

protect their trees. The modified road design was approved, and work began to carefully expand the street while preserving the oaks.

Today, five years later, Meadowbrook serves as an example of how communities can balance progress with preservation. The town has even started an annual "Tree Festival" that celebrates their environmental heritage. Visitors often remark that Meadowbrook's Main Street, with its majestic oaks and curved road, is more charming than ever.

A. Reading Comprehension

1. Why did the town council initially want to remove the oak trees?

2. How did Sarah Chen contribute to saving the trees?

3. What compromise was reached regarding the road expansion?

4. What long-term impact did this event have on Meadowbrook?

B. Vocabulary

1. Find a word from the passage that means 'very big or powerful' (paragraph 1)

2. What does the word 'distinctive' mean in the context of paragraph 1?

- a) different b) unique c) common d) ordinary

3. Choose the correct antonym for 'preserved' from the options:

- a) destroyed b) saved c) protected d) vanish

4. The word 'initiative' in paragraph 4 means:

- a) final step b) first step c) procedure d) conclusion

C. Grammar and Structure (1 mark each)

1. "The news spread quickly through Meadowbrook." Change this sentence to passive voice.

2. Identify the kind of sentence:

"How communities can balance progress with preservation!"

- a) exclamatory b) interrogative c) declarative d) imperative

3. Find a compound word from paragraph 2.

4. In the sentence "These century-old giants provided cool shade", identify the:

a) subject b) verb c) object

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[Answer Key]

A. Reading Comprehension

1. To widen the street and accommodate increasing traffic
2. She started the "Save Our Shade" campaign and researched environmental benefits of trees
3. A modified road design that curved around the largest trees was implemented
4. The town became an example of environmental preservation and started an annual Tree Festival

B. Vocabulary

1. giants
2. b) unique
3. a) destroyed
4. b) first step

C. Grammar

1. The news was spread quickly through Meadowbrook.
2. a) exclamatory
3. townspeople
4. a) These century-old giants
b) provided
c) cool shade