



Name: _____

The Tree and Its Leaves

Once upon a time, in a beautiful forest, there was a proud tree named Oakley. Oakley had thick branches covered with bright green leaves that shimmered in the sunlight. Oakley loved his leaves more than anything and took great pride in how they danced in the wind and provided shade for animals.

As summer turned to autumn, the other trees in the forest began to prepare for the cooler weather. Their leaves started to change color, turning shades of red, orange, and yellow before gently falling to the ground. But Oakley was stubborn.



"I won't let my leaves fall!" Oakley declared. "I want to stay green and beautiful all year round. Who wants bare branches?"

The wise old Maple tree nearby overheard Oakley and said, "But Oakley, losing our leaves is part of the natural cycle. We need to rest in the winter, and without our leaves, we can save energy to stay strong."

Oakley just shook his branches. "I don't need rest! My leaves are what make me special, and I'm keeping them."

As the days grew colder, Oakley held on tightly to his leaves while all the other trees let theirs go. Soon, snow began to fall, covering the forest in a soft white blanket. The trees with bare branches stood strong, but Oakley was in trouble. His green leaves caught the heavy snow, and before long, his branches started to bend under the weight.

"I can't hold on much longer!" Oakley cried as his branches creaked and groaned. "My leaves are too heavy!"

Just then, a gust of wind came through the forest, shaking Oakley's branches and sending his leaves flying off. As the last leaf floated away, Oakley sighed in relief.

The wise Maple tree spoke again. "You see, Oakley, sometimes we must let go to grow stronger. It's not the leaves that make you special—it's how you weather the seasons and adapt to change."



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Oakley thought about this for a moment and realized that Maple was right. He had been so focused on keeping his leaves that he had forgotten the wisdom of the seasons.

As winter passed and spring arrived, Oakley's branches began to bud with fresh new leaves. They were even more beautiful than before, and Oakley now understood that letting go had allowed him to grow stronger and more vibrant.

From that day on, Oakley embraced each season, knowing that change is a part of life and that there's always something new and wonderful ahead.

1. What did Oakley love about his leaves? _____

2. What problems did Oakley's leaves cause for him when it snowed? _____

3. What happened when spring arrived? _____

4. What lesson did Oakley learn? _____
