

# Friends



**Name**

**Score**

**Level and grade**

# Useful words



**Oscar**



**Max**

bounded

balance

bouncy

tantrum

reply

suggestion

## Oscar needs a friend

Oscar was a bear who couldn't keep still. All day long he raced round the mountainside. At bedtime he raced round mum.



And when at last he snuggled down, Oscar always said the same thing.

"I wish there were more bears on our side of the mountain. I wish there was another bear who liked the same sort of games as me!"

### Practice questions

A What kind of bear was Oscar?

A bear who slept a lot.

A bear who could not keep quiet.

A bear who could not keep still.

A bear who ate a lot.

B Why did Oscar want another bear to live nearby?

.....

Weeks passed and Oscar wondered if he would ever find a friend. Then one day he bounded home, bursting with excitement!

"Mum, Mum," cried Oscar. "Some new bears have moved in just up the path, and the little one looks as if he needs a friend too."

The new little bear was called Max. Straight after lunch Oscar set off to meet him.



1 What was Oscar excited about?

having lunch

new bears moving in

going home

seeing his mum

2 What was the new little bear called?

.....

"Let's play on my slide," said Oscar.  
Without waiting for a reply, he  
pulled Max to the top of  
his favourite hill.

"Isn't this great!" cried Oscar,  
as the two bears tumbled  
down the hill together.

But Max wasn't so sure.  
And before long he ran off back  
to his mum.

That evening at supper Oscar was sulky.  
But the next day he went to see Max again.



3 Which words tell you that Oscar liked the game?

Oscar was sulky

ran off back to his mum

tumbled down the hill

"Isn't this great!"

4 How do you know Max was not happy with this game?

.....

"Let's play on my bouncy branch," said Oscar.

Without waiting for a reply, he pushed Max up into his favourite tree.

"Isn't this great!" cried Oscar, as the two bears tried to balance in the breeze.

"Let's play hide-and-see," said Oscar. Without waiting for a reply, he ran off and left Max in the dark and gloomy wood.

"Isn't this great!" yelled Oscar.

But Max was wailing. "I want to go home ... now!"



5 What was it like in the woods?

bright and sunny

light and airy

dark and gloomy

cold and wet

6 Why did Oscar leave Max in the wood?

.....

That night at bedtime Oscar had a tantrum.

"Max says my slide's too steep, my branch is too bouncy and my wood's too scary," he yelled.

"And he keeps running home to his mum."



When at last she could make herself heard, Oscar's mum made a suggestion. Oscar pretended not to listen.

But before he went to sleep, he thought about what mum had said.

7 Why was Oscar upset at bedtime?

because he did not want to go to bed

because the woods were too scary

because mum told him off

because Max did not like his games



8 What did Oscar's mum do to help him?

She made him tea.

She played with him.

She talked to him.

She sent Max home.





Next morning he raced round to Max's home.

"What would you like to do today?" asked Oscar.

Then he waited for a reply.

At first there was a silence, but then there was a **whoooosh!** as Max bounced from behind his mum.

"Swimming!" he shouted. The two bears ran quickly towards the water.

Oscar watched in amazement as Max scrambled up to the highest rock and leapt straight in.



"We had a huge lake at my old home," explained Max.

All morning the two bears had fun in the water.





9 What did Oscar do that was different?

went to Max's home

asked Max what he wanted to do

played with Max

made Max play his game

10 What do you think mum said, when she made her suggestion?

.....

11 What did Max do that amazed Oscar?

.....

12 Where had Max been swimming before?

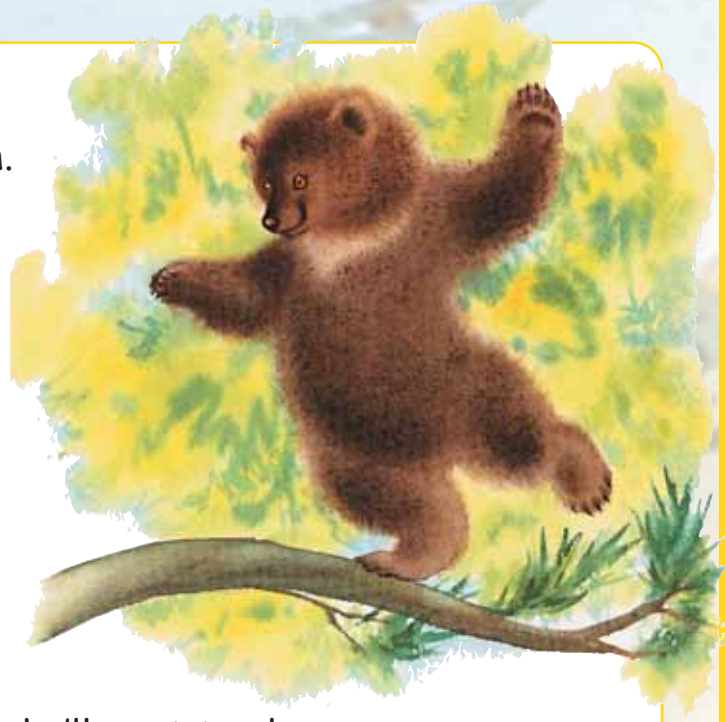
in the swimming pool

in a pond

in the sea

in a lake

That afternoon Max asked if he could try Oscar's slide again, then his branch. "It's easier than I thought," beamed Max.



"I do hope he'll want to play hide-and-seek soon," thought Oscar to himself.

But he knew now that he must wait until Max was ready.

13 What did Max find out after trying the slide and branch again?

It was easier than he thought.

He fell over.

It was harder than he thought.

He could not do it.



14 Why didn't Oscar ask Max to play hide-and-seek?

.....





"And what do you think of your new friend today?" asked mum, when it was time to take Max home.

"I think Max is brilliant!" cried Oscar. "And that I am the luckiest bear on the mountain."



## 15 Think about the whole story.

Match the boxes. The first one has been done for you.

Mum helps Oscar to

be brave and try new things.

Oscar and Max

think about other people's feelings.

Oscar learns to

enjoy playing together.

Max learns to

take turns and listen to other people.



# Useful words

friendship

lonely

equipment

draughts



# Playtime

In this part of the booklet you are going to read about some of the things that the children at Green Park School did to change their playtimes and make them more fun.



The children put up a display in the entrance hall of their school to show visitors all the exciting changes that had been going on.

The Governors of our school gave us some money to spend on making the playground a more friendly place, where all the children can play happily.

They asked the whole school to decide together what they thought the best ideas would be for spending the money.

## Practice questions

A What is the name of the school?

Greenfield

Green Park

Newtown

Oldfield

B What was the money given to the children for?

.....

# Making our

We asked all the children in our school to tell us what they thought about playtime.



Some children said that playtime was boring because there was nothing to do. They wanted some new things to play with and ideas for new games.



16 Why did some children think playtime was boring?

They were tired.

It was cold.

There was nothing to do.

There were lots of games to play.

17 What did the bored children want?

.....

# new playground

Other children said they were sometimes sad because they did not have anyone to play with.



We thought about what everyone had said, and chose three ideas. We hope that you will visit our new playground and come and see us having fun.



18 Why were children sometimes sad at playtime?

.....

19 What is **Making our new playground** ?

the end

the blurb

the logo

the title



This is the Friendship Bench. When somebody sits on the Friendship Bench, other children know that they are feeling lonely and sad, and come over to be friendly.

This is what Dan said about it.

When I first started at this school I didn't know anybody. At playtime I sat on the Friendship Bench and Sarah, Baz and Tanya came over and asked me if I wanted to join in their game.



Now playtimes are fun because I have some friends to play with. The Friendship Bench is a good idea because it helps you to get to know people quickly.

20 Why did some children sit on the Friendship Bench?

They were hungry.

They were waiting for a bus.

They were lonely.

They were tired.



21 Does Dan like the Friendship Bench?

Yes

No

Why?

.....





We chose some equipment so that we could play new games. There are balls, hoops, beanbags and long skipping ropes.



Mrs Wood taught us rhymes for skipping. In this one, we all say the rhyme....

We say all the months in the year and each person has to jump in when we say the month that they were born in. Skipping is good exercise, and it's fun.

All in together now,  
Never mind the weather now,  
January, February, March,  
April, May, June, July.....

22 What equipment did the children choose?

Tick **4**.

bats .....

balls .....

hoops .....

skittles .....

beanbags .....

skipping ropes .....



23 In the skipping game, when do the children jump in?

.....



We did not change all of the playground, because children still like to play games like 'Catch' and football.

The older children think the giant draughts board is the best thing and they are teaching the younger children how to play.



Draughts is good because you can play in big teams and it gets exciting.



Under the trees we have a quiet corner with seats and tables. We can sit here and read or talk to our friends. Sometimes we make up adventures, then go and play them.

24 What did the older children help the younger children to do?

to play draughts

to put their coats on

to tie their laces

to learn to swim



25 What can the children do in the quiet corner?

Write **2** things.

1 .....

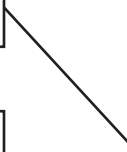
2 .....



Think about **all** you have read about Green Park School.

26 Match up the boxes to show where you would go.  
The first one has been done for you.

to play catch	the Friendship Bench
if you were lonely	the old part of the playground
to play in a big team	under the trees
to sit and read	the draughts board



27 Do you think the children at Green Park School have better playtimes now?

Yes       No

Why?

.....

.....



**Think about the whole *Friends* booklet.**

28 What can you learn about friends from this booklet?

Tick **3**.

Friends make playtime boring. \_\_\_\_\_

Friends share ideas and games. \_\_\_\_\_

It is lonely without friends. \_\_\_\_\_

You can only have friends at school. \_\_\_\_\_

Friends listen to each other. \_\_\_\_\_

Friends always have to play your games. \_\_\_\_\_









Adapted from *Oscar Needs a Friend* by Joan Stimson. Published by Little Hippo (Scholastic Ltd).

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