

The Sleepy Hedgehog

"Yes!" said Jamie, as he raced out of school with his best friend Jack. "It's the weekend at last!"

"Are you going to the firework **display** at the scout hut tomorrow night?" asked Jack.

"No. Dad said we're going to build our own little bonfire in the back garden, he has even bought some **sparklers** for us to have," replied Jamie.

"Well, just remember what Mr Jones said today in class – wear gloves if you are holding sparklers and put them in a bucket of water afterwards," warned Jack, looking a little worried. "Anyway, Mr Jones said it's safer to go to an **organised event**."

"I know, but it will only be a little fire and Dad has bought some smaller fireworks which are just the right size for our garden! I need to remember to keep Snowy inside though, he doesn't like fireworks!" replied Jamie, smiling at the thought of his fluffy, white puppy. Jack and Jamie said **farewell** to each other and headed home.

By the time Jamie arrived home, Dad was already in the garden. He was chopping up the old, wooden picnic bench. There was already a pile of branches in the middle of the garden which he had removed from the **overgrown** apple tree. "Hi son, did you have a good day at school?" he asked, as he saw Jamie coming out of the back door.

"Yeah, it was alright," Jamie **mumbled**. "This looks much more fun though! Can I help you chop wood please, that axe looks cool!" he said with an excited look on his face.

"No way, this axe is for grown-ups only!" laughed Dad. "However, you can put those gardening gloves on and help collect lots of dry sticks. Grab a bucket and fill it with dry leaves too, we can put those around the bottom to help get the fire going."

Jamie and Dad worked hard in the garden for the next few hours. Finally they had built a pretty **impressive** looking bonfire. Dad had put the dry leaves and sticks at the bottom and then placed the thicker pieces of wood on top. They both stood back to **admire** their handy work. "Tomorrow is going to be brilliant, I can't wait!" said Jamie excitedly. Suddenly they heard Mum's voice shouting from inside the house, "The pizza is ready, get in here and wash your hands if you want some." Jamie and Dad pulled off their shoes and rushed in for dinner.

Jamie was tired and grubby after building the bonfire so, after dinner, he had a soak in a warm bubble bath and got his pyjamas on ready for bed. Mum came up to tuck him into bed. "I have some nice hot chocolate for you here, would you like a story too?" she asked.

"Yes please Mum. Can I have the one about the sleepy hedgehog who is looking for a place to **hibernate**," replied a sleepy Jamie.

"Of course you can darling. That book is just right for this time of year. I saw a hedgehog in the garden last night, I bet he was trying to find somewhere in our garden to hibernate," Mum answered. Then she picked up the book and read the story to Jamie, who was soon fast asleep dreaming of hedgehogs, bonfires and fireworks.

The next morning Jamie woke with a **jolt**. He had just had a very strange dream and there was something he needed to check. Quickly, he pulled on his clothes and raced downstairs. He rushed straight to the back door and out into the garden, stopping only once he was in front of the bonfire. He looked at it **curiously**. Dad **appeared** suddenly at his side. "What's up champ, you seem to be in a rush this morning?"

Jamie sounded worried as he said, "Do you think it is possible for a hedgehog to hibernate in our bonfire?" he asked.

"Well," replied Dad, "I guess a bonfire would make a lovely place to hibernate. Do you think we should check it?"

"Yes! Mum says we have a hedgehog living in the garden. What if it crawled in last night?" **stated** a worried Jamie.

Dad and Jamie went to the garden shed. Dad pulled out a large fork. "Stop Dad! You can't use a fork, you might stab it!" explained Jamie.

"Good point! Let's use this broom handle instead," Dad **suggested**. So Dad slid the broom handle through the middle of the bonfire and, very gently, he lifted it up. Jamie used a torch to look underneath. Suddenly, a little brown nose poked up through the leaves, followed by two brown, blinking eyes. Dad and Jamie laughed at the sight of the very sleepy hedgehog.

Jamie put on his gardening gloves (to protect his hands) whilst Mum found a cardboard box and some old towels. Very gently, Jamie lifted up the tired hedgehog and placed him inside the box. Next, he **gathered** up some of the leaves and placed them and the towel around him. "This little lovely will be much safer in here, at least until Bonfire Night is over," suggested Mum. "We had better get him some food and water. Hedgehogs like dog food and I'm sure Snowy won't mind sharing his." So Mum organised the food and water whilst Jamie and Dad poked some air holes into the lid of the box. Mum placed the food inside and Jamie put the lid on top.

Dad carried the box carefully to the garage. "I think the hedgehog will be safe in here until Bonfire Night is over. Then we can find a better home for him in the garden," said Dad.

Two days later, once everyone was happy that the **ashes** of the burnt out bonfire were completely cold, Spikey (the hedgehog) was **positioned** under the hedge, behind the log pile. Jamie left some more dog food and water for him and they watched him roll up into a tight ball, ready to go back to sleep again. "I think he will like it here," said Dad. "Thank goodness you found him before it was too late!"

"Thank goodness Mum read that bedtime story to me," replied Jamie. "That's what made me think about checking! I really enjoyed our bonfire Dad, but next year I think it will be safer if we go to the scout hut instead, just in case Spikey decides to stay for another year!"

By Sue Chattoe

The Sleepy Hedgehog – Oral Teacher Questions

What time of year is it? How do you know? (AF2/AF3) Accept Autumn or November, we know because the children are discussing going to a bonfire and firework display.

Where was Jack going to watch the fireworks? (AF2) The scout hut.

What safety tip did Mr Jones give the children about sparklers? (AF2/AF7) To wear gloves and to put them in a bucket of water afterwards.

How were Dad and Jamie going to make sure their Bonfire Night was safe? (AF2/AF7) They were having a small bonfire and dad bought smaller fireworks, appropriate for the size of the garden. Jamie was going to keep his puppy inside.

Find and copy a word which tells us that Jamie wasn't too enthusiastic about his day at school. (AF5) Accept mumbled or alright.

When building the bonfire, what TWO jobs did Dad give Jamie? (AF2) To collect dry sticks and fill a bucket full of dry leaves.

What does the word hibernate mean? (AF5) To spend the winter in a sleeping or dormant state.

Why do you think Jamie went to sleep so quickly? (AF3) He was tired after helping to build the bonfire, he had also enjoyed a relaxing bedtime routine including: a warm bath, a mug of hot chocolate and a story.

What made Jamie think about checking the bonfire for hedgehogs? (AF2/AF3) He knew there was a hedgehog living in the garden because his Mum had seen it. Also the story reminded him of hedgehogs trying to find a place to hibernate in Autumn.

Why shouldn't Dad use a garden fork to check the bonfire? (AF2) He might have stabbed it into the hedgehog.

'Jamie put on his gardening gloves (to protect his hands)...' What is the purpose of the brackets? (AF4) They add extra information, in this case they tell us why Jamie put his gloves on.

Identify TWO more words which mean the same as 'gathered'. (AF5) Suggestions could include: collected, grouped, assembled, get together.

Why do you think the author wrote this story? (AF6) To make you think about staying safe during Bonfire Night and to remind you about keeping pets and wildlife safe during this time of year.

The Sleepy Hedgehog – Follow-up Work

What time of year is it? How do you know? (AF2/AF3)

Where was Jack going to watch the fireworks? (AF2)

What safety tip did Mr Jones give the children about sparklers? (AF2/AF7)

How were Dad and Jamie going to make sure their Bonfire Night was safe?

(AF2/AF7)

Find and copy a word which tells us that Jamie wasn't too enthusiastic about his day at school. (AF5)

When building the bonfire, what TWO jobs did Dad give Jamie? (AF2)

What does the word hibernate mean? (AF5)

Why do you think Jamie went to sleep so quickly? (AF3)

What made Jamie think about checking the bonfire for hedgehogs? (AF2/AF3)

Why shouldn't Dad use a garden fork to check the bonfire? (AF2)

'Jamie put on his gardening gloves (to protect his hands)...' What is the purpose of the brackets? (AF4)

Identify TWO more words which mean the same as 'gathered'. (AF5)

Why do you think the author wrote this story? (AF6)

The Sleepy Hedgehog – Vocab 1

Write the meaning of each of these words. (AF2)

display _____

sparklers _____

organised _____

event _____

farewell _____

overgrown _____

mumbled _____

impressive _____

admire _____

hibernate _____

jolt _____

curiously _____

appeared _____

stated _____

suggested _____

gathered _____

ashes _____

positioned _____

The Sleepy Hedgehog – Vocab 1

Write the meaning of each of these words. (AF2)

display – a performance, show or event intended for people to watch

sparklers – a handheld firework that throws off sparks as it burns

organised – make arrangements or preparations for an event or activity

event – a thing that happens

farewell – an act of parting

overgrown – grown too large or beyond its normal size

mumbled – say something quietly, making it difficult for others to hear

impressive – something which deserves admiration due to its size, quality or skill

admire – to look at something with respect or approval

hibernate – animals spend the winter in a dormant state

jolt – an abrupt, rough or violent movement

curiously – in a way that shows an urge to know or learn something

appeared – come into sight; become visible

stated – to express something definitely or clearly in speech or writing

suggested – to put forward an idea for consideration

gathered – to bring together and take in from scattered places

ashes – the powdery residue left after burning

positioned – put or arrange in a particular place or way

The Sleepy Hedgehog – Vocab 2

Task A

Join these words together to make a compound word.

over	way
fire	where
broom	stool
some	work
toad	grown
any	stick

Task B

Look through the text and identify the synonyms used in place of said.

asked	

Challenge

Complete these sentences by choosing a synonym from the word bank below.

- “Watch out for that car!” _____ Dad.
- “Sarah is in the next room,” _____ John from his hiding place.
- “Fetch me my broomstick,” _____ the witch.
- “You look yummy!” _____ the snake.

whispered hissed bellowed cackled

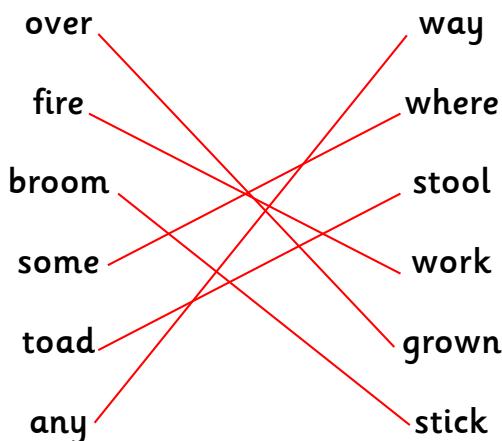
classroomsecrets.com

The Sleepy Hedgehog – 3c – Vocab

The Sleepy Hedgehog – Vocab 2

Task A

Join these words together to make a compound word.



Task B

Look through the text and identify the synonyms used in place of said.

asked	shouting
replied	answered
warned	stated
mumbled	explained
laughed	suggested

Challenge

Complete these sentences by choosing a synonym from the word bank below.

- “Watch out for that car!” **bellowed** Dad.
- “Sarah is in the next room,” **whispered** John from his hiding place.
- “Fetch me my broomstick,” **cackled** the witch.
- “You look yummy!” **hissed** the snake.

whispered

hissed

bellowed

cackled

classroomsecrets.com

The Sleepy Hedgehog – 3c – Vocab **ANSWERS**

Task A

Identify the verbs in these sentences.

- The rocket blasted into the air.
- Dogs barked at the noise.
- The bonfire glowed brightly.
- The baked potatoes smelt delicious.

Task B

Now identify the adverbs in these sentences.

- Fireworks exploded noisily above the rooftops.
- The sparkler glowed brightly as it was held in the child's hand.
- Children clapped excitedly as they watched the fireworks explode.
- Hedgehogs huddled nervously under the garden shed.

Challenge

Complete these sentences by choosing an adverb from the word bank below.

- The rocket whooshed _____ into the night sky.
- The children sang _____ around the camp fire.
- Smoke hung _____ in the cold air.
- The smell of sausages wafted _____ from the kitchen.

heavily temptingly happily quickly

classroomsecrets.com

The Sleepy Hedgehog – 3c – SPAG

Task A

Identify the verbs in these sentences.

- The rocket **blasted** into the air.
- Dogs **barked** at the noise.
- The bonfire **glowed** brightly.
- The baked potatoes **smelt** delicious.

Task B

Now identify the adverbs in these sentences.

- Fireworks exploded **noisily** above the rooftops.
- The sparkler glowed **brightly** as it was held in the child's hand.
- Children clapped **excitedly** as they watched the fireworks explode.
- Hedgehogs huddled **nervously** under the garden shed.

Challenge

Complete these sentences by choosing an adverb from the word bank below.

- The rocket whooshed **quickly** into the night sky.
- The children sang **happily** around the camp fire.
- Smoke hung **heavily** in the cold air.
- The smell of sausages wafted **temptingly** from the kitchen.

heavily temptingly happily quickly

classroomsecrets.com

The Sleepy Hedgehog – 3c – SPAG **ANSWERS**