

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# The Haunted Tree

by Kelly Hashway



Mark turned the corner and stared at the empty bus stop. He swallowed hard and his hands started to shake. Being the first one there wouldn't be a problem if the old oak tree that marked the bus stop wasn't haunted.

"Where is everyone?" Mark whispered.

The sun wasn't quite up yet, and the darkness was making the oak tree look scarier than usual. The tree was the gathering place for the bus stop. All the kids stood by it and talked while they waited for Mr. Meyers to drive up and take them to school. When other kids were around, the bus stop wasn't so scary. But Mark was alone, and it was dark.

The oak tree's branches swayed in the breeze, and Mark heard the strange "Ooooh" that sometimes came from the center of the tree.

Mark hurried to the other side of the street, trying to stay as far away from the tree as possible. He didn't take his eyes off the tree. The bare branches looked like they were reaching out to grab him. He heard the "Ooooh, ooooh" again.

"I'm not afraid of you," Mark called in a shaky voice.

“Who are you talking to?” Will asked, walking up behind Mark.

Mark jumped. He turned to face Will and relaxed a little now that he wasn't alone with the tree. Will stared at him, waiting for an answer.

“I thought I heard something.” Mark shrugged and crossed the street, heading for the bus stop. Will followed.

“Maybe you heard the ghost in the tree,” Will said.

“Oooh, oooh.”

Mark and Will jumped.

Something moved across the hollowed out spot in the tree.

“There's something in the tree,” Mark said. He stood on tiptoes and peeked inside.

“It's an owl!”



“An owl? That's what's making that strange noise?”

Will asked.

“Maybe it's hurt,” Mark said. “Let's tell Mrs. Abrams about it when we get to school. She knows a lot about nocturnal animals.”

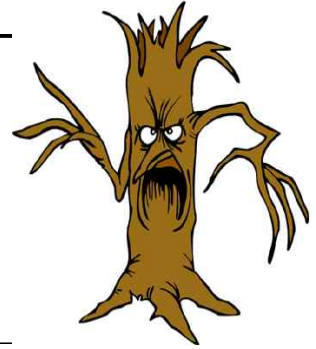
“I guess there's nothing to be scared of now,” Will said.

“I'm still pretty scared of the math test we have today,” Mark said.

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1. Describe the setting of the story.

(Tell where and when the story takes place.)

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2. What did Will think of the oak tree?

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3. Who was Mr. Meyers?

a. their teacher

b. the bus driver

c. Mark's mother

d. the name of the ghost in the tree

4. List the correct order of these events. Write 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th on the lines.

\_\_\_\_\_ Mark stood on his tiptoes and peeked inside the tree.

\_\_\_\_\_ Mark was the first one to arrive at the bus stop.

\_\_\_\_\_ Mark saw an owl in the tree.

\_\_\_\_\_ Mark walked to the other side of the street because he was afraid.

\_\_\_\_\_ Will arrived and both boys heard a ghost sound in the tree.

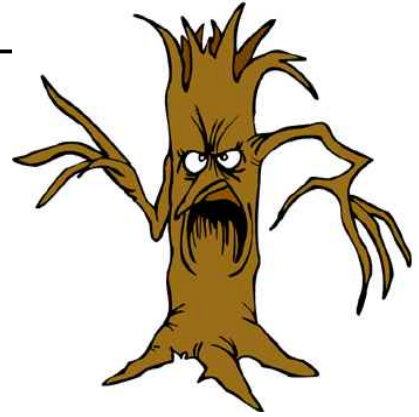
5. At the end of the story, what was Mark afraid of?

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# The Haunted Tree

## Vocabulary



Read each sentence. Look up the definition of each underlined word in the dictionary. Write each definition.

1. The oak tree's branches swayed in the breeze. (sway )

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2. Mrs. Abrams knows a lot about nocturnal animals. (nocturnal)

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3. Something moved across the hollowed out spot in the tree. (hollow)

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4. Mark shrugged and crossed the street. (shrug)

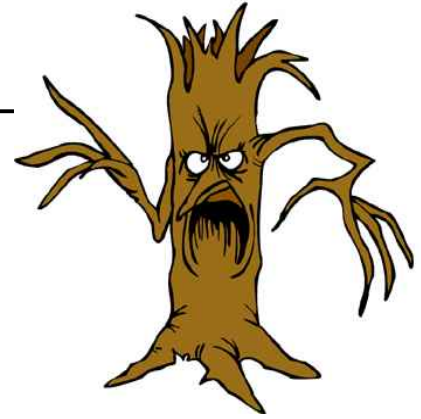
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# ANSWER KEY

## The Haunted Tree

by Kelly Hashway



1. Describe the setting of the story.

(Tell where and when the story takes place.)

The story takes place at the bus stop, early in the morning before sunrise.

Note: The story does not specifically mention the season of fall, but this may be implied by the picture.

2. What did Will think of the oak tree?

Will thought the tree was haunted by a ghost.

3. Who was Mr. Meyers? **b**

a. their teacher

b. the bus driver

c. Mark's mother

d. the name of the ghost in the tree

4. List the correct order of these events. Write 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th on the lines.

4th Mark stood on his tiptoes and peeked inside the tree.

1st Mark was the first one to arrive at the bus stop.

5th Mark saw an owl in the tree.

2nd Mark walked to the other side of the street because he was afraid.

3rd Will arrived and both boys heard a ghost sound in the tree.

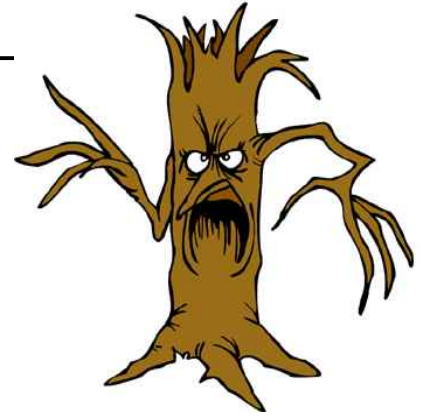
5. At the end of the story, what was Mark afraid of?

Mark was afraid of his math test.

# ANSWER KEY

## The Haunted Tree

### Vocabulary



Read each sentence. Look up the definition of each underlined word in the dictionary. Write each definition.

1. The oak tree's branches swayed in the breeze. (sway )

sway - the action of swaying, or moving back and forth.

2. Mrs. Abrams knows a lot about nocturnal animals. (nocturnal )

nocturnal - active at night

3. Something moved across the hollowed out spot in the tree. (hollow)

hollow - to carve or form an opening in

4. Mark shrugged and crossed the street. (shrug)

shrug - to raise the shoulders to express uncertainty