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# The Apple Orchard



There once was an apple orchard in a small corner of our town. It was surrounded by big hills and green trees, and it was also the place for a family of bears to call home.

The family of bears lived in the middle of the orchard, under the shade of one of the apple trees. Every day, they would wake up and help to look after the apple trees. They would trim the branches, water the trees, and pick the ripe apples. The bears were very proud of their apple tree orchard, and they were happy to have so many yummy apples to eat. They shared the apples with the other animals in the forest, and everyone was very thankful for the yummy apples. The orchard was also very popular with the people in the town. Every fall, people from miles around would come to the orchard to pick apples for pies, jams, and other yummy treats. The bears loved to watch the people as they picked the apples from the trees. They really enjoyed seeing the people's happy faces as they took the apples home to share with their families. The apple orchard was a special place for the bears, and it was a perfect home for them. They were happy to live in the orchard, with all the apple trees and they loved it when the people came to visit and pick their apples. The apple orchard was the bear's special place.

1. Read the passage about the Apple Orchard
2. Underline each word / sentence that you could not read or understand.
3. Answer the follow up questions.

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Answer according to the reading passage:

**1. Who lived in the apple orchard:**

- a. people from the town
- b. bears
- c. squirrels

**2. Who looked after the apple trees:**

- a. nobody
- b. the people
- c. the bears

**3. When did the people come to pick the apples?**

- a. the fall
- b. the summer
- c. the spring

**4. What did the people like to make with the apples?**

- a. apple butter
- b. apple sauce
- c. pies and jams

**5. What did the bears call the apple orchard?**

- a. special place
- b. the forest
- c. their den

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## Open Response Questions

### Open Response Questions for Thinking Skills:

1. Inferring
2. Making Connections
3. Summarizing
4. Visualizing

1. Why did the bears like the apple orchard so much?
2. What did this story remind you of?
3. In 2 sentences explain what this reading passage is all about.
4. What images occur in your mind after reading this? What types of things can you visualize?
5. What would make this a better story?
6. Could this story be real? Why or why not?
7. If you could give this story a different title, what would it be?