

LO: To analyse a text



Prologue

Once upon a time in Frog Creek, Pennsylvania, a mysterious tree house appeared in the woods. A boy named Jack and his sister, Annie, climbed into the tree house. They found that it was filled with books.

Jack and Annie soon discovered that the tree house was magic. It could take them to the places they read about in the books. All they had to do was point to a picture and wish to go there. They discovered that during their adventures, no time had passed in Frog Creek.

Jack and Annie eventually learned that the tree house belonged to Morgan Le Fay, an enchantress from Camelot, the long-time kingdom of King Arthur. On one of their journeys, Jack and Annie visited Morgan's library in Camelot and brought hope and courage to King Arthur.

Now it's winter. Jack and Annie have not seen Morgan or the magic tree house for many months.

CHAPTER ONE

A ROYAL INVITATION



Sunlight had faded from the late-afternoon sky. Puffy snow clouds were moving in.

“Let’s hurry. I’m cold,” said Jack.

He and Annie were walking home from school. Their Christmas vacation was just beginning.

Cooo----cooo.

“Wait,” said Annie. “Look.”

She pointed to a white bird sitting on a bare tree branch at the edge of the woods. The bird was staring straight at them.

“It’s a dove,” said Jack.

“It’s a messenger,” said Annie, “from Morgan.”

“No,” Jack said, afraid to get his hopes up. They hadn’t seen Morgan le Fay in a long time. He really missed her.

“Yes,” said Annie. “She has a mission for us. I can feel it.”

In the hush of the cold twilight, the dove spread its wings and flew into the Frog Creek woods.

“Come on!” said Annie. “The tree house is back!”

“You’re just hoping!” said Jack.

“I’m *knowing*” said Annie. She ran into the woods, following the white dove.



“Oh, brother,” said Jack. But he took off after Annie. Even in the growing darkness, they easily found their way. They zigzagged between the bare trees and ran over the frozen ground until they came to the tallest oak in the woods.

“See?” said Annie, pointing to the top of the tree.

“Yeah,” whispered Jack.

There it was: the magic tree house.

“Morgan!” shouted Annie.

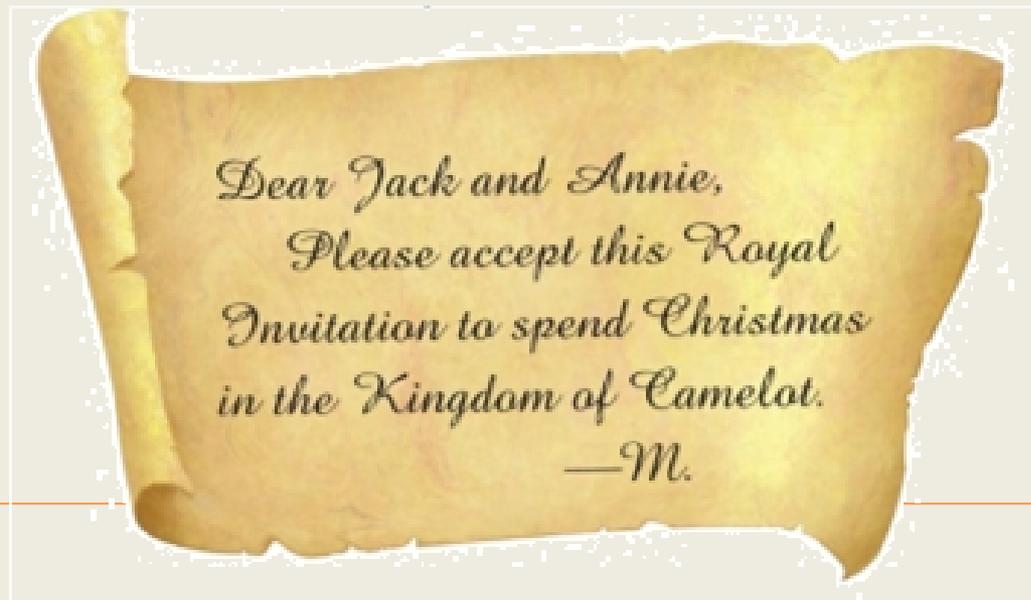
Jack held his breath, waiting to see the enchantress at the tree house window. But Morgan did not appear.

Annie grabbed the rope ladder and started up. Jack followed. When they climbed inside the tree house, Jack saw something lying on the floor. It was a scroll, rolled up and tied with a red velvet ribbon.

Jack picked up the scroll and unrolled it. The thick, yellowed paper shimmered with large gold writing.

“Wow, Morgan has sent us a really fancy note,” said Annie.

“It’s an invitation,” said Jack. “Listen.”



*Dear Jack and Annie,
Please accept this Royal
Invitation to spend Christmas
in the Kingdom of Camelot.
—M.*

“Christmas in Camelot!” said Annie. “I don’t believe it!”

“Cool,” whispered Jack. He pictured a beautiful, glowing castle lit with candles and filled with knights and ladies feasting and singing.

“We’re going to celebrate Christmas with Morgan and King Arthur!” said Annie. “And Queen Guinevere!”

“Yeah,” said Jack. “And the Knights of the Round Table, like Sir Lancelot!”

“Let’s go!” said Annie. “Where’s the book?”

She and Jack looked around the tree house for a book about Camelot. The only book they saw was the Pennsylvanian book that always brought them home.

“What’s happening?” said Jack.

“I don’t know...” said Annie.

“Wait a minute,” said Jack. “You were holding the invitation, and you made a wish...”

The wind blew harder.

“That must have made the magic work!” cried Annie.

Jack felt a surge of joy.

“We’re going to Camelot!” he said.

The tree house started to spin.

It spun faster and faster.

Then everything was still.

Absolutely still.

Tasks:

Look back over the text. Notice how many times the word 'said' has been used. What do you think about this? What words could have been used to give the reader more information? Copy two pieces of speech accurately and change the word 'said' to something more descriptive.

Have a go at the questions on the next page.





Name _____

Chapter One

Directions: Choose the answer that best completes each sentence.



1. Annie thought the dove was a

- A. sign
- B. messenger
- C. friend

2. Inside the treehouse, Jack and Annie found a

- A. note
- B. piece of parchment
- C. invitation

3. The message was an invitation to spend _____

- A. a day on the moon
- B. Christmas in Camelot
- C. an afternoon with Morgan

4. There was no book to make a wish from so Jack and Annie had to _____

- A. pretend
- B. dream
- C. make a wish