

Read the short story. Then answer each question.

## One Guest Too Many?

Mary the mouse ran through the forest looking for food. While she was looking, she saw a large, hollow tree stump. She stopped to look.

“Is anyone home?” Mary called.

No one answered. Mary looked into the tree. No one lived there.



“I think I’ll move into the tree,” Mary said.

Mary loved her tree house. Plenty of plants grew nearby, and a stream ran beside it.

A few days later, Freddie the frog hopped by. He saw the hollow tree and called out, “Is anyone home?”

Mary stuck her head out of the hole in the tree.

“Hello,” she said. “What can I do for you?”

Freddie's eyes drooped. "I was hoping that no one lived here. I am looking for a new home."

Mary smiled. "There's plenty of room. Come on in."

Freddie joined Mary in the tree house. There was plenty of room for the two of them. They were happy.

A few days later, Harry the hare stopped in front of the tree house.

"Is anyone home?" he called.

Mary and Freddie came out of the tree house.

"Hello," Freddie said. "What can we do for you?"

Harry's ears drooped. "I was hoping that no one lived here. I am looking for a new home."

"Come on in," said Mary and Freddie. "There's plenty of room."



Harry smiled and joined Mary and Freddie in the tree house. There was plenty of room for the three of them. They were happy.



A few days later, Bubba the bear stopped in front of the tree house.

“Is anyone home?” he called.

Mary, Freddie, and Harry came outside. “Hello,” they said. “What can we do for you?”

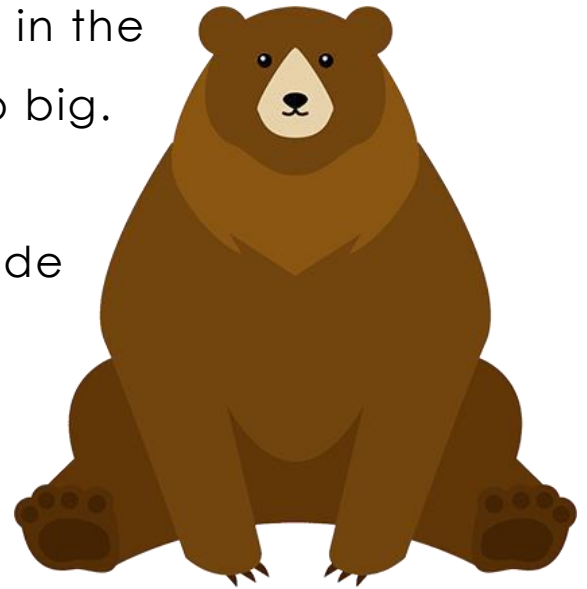
Bubba’s head drooped. “I was hoping that no one lived here. I am looking for a new home.”

“Come on in,” Mary said. “There’s plenty of room.”

“No!” cried Harry. “Bubba is too big! And I don’t like bears. I don’t trust bears. I am scared of bears.”

Mary and Freddie turned to look at the hare. “It will be all right. There is plenty of room.”

Bubba smiled. He stuck his head in the door, but the rest of him was too big. He pushed and pushed and pushed. Finally, his shoulders made it through the door.



*Craaaaaaack!*

The tree stump house broke in two. Bubba looked at what he had done and then ran away.

“Oh, no!” cried Harry. “What are we going to do now?” He turned to Mary. “I told you he was too big. Bears always ruin everything.”

Mary, Freddie, and Harry thought and thought. They had a big problem. They had nowhere to live.

The three animals started looking for a new home. It was not easy. As they walked, Harry kept complaining about bears. He thought bears were the worst animals in the whole forest.

The animals looked and looked. They walked from one end of the forest to the other. They could not find a good home.

Harry kept saying it was all Bubba's fault.

Night fell and it became cold. Mary, Freddie and Harry



were very unhappy and sat close to each other trying to keep warm. It was not nice not having a home. It did not feel safe.

A rumbling crunch sounded in the underbrush. The animals looked up, a little scared.

Bubba came into the clearing dragging a tree trunk behind him. He quickly dug a hole and set up the tree trunk.

“What's this?” Mary asked.

“I broke your home, so I got you another one.”  
Bubba said. “I will find a big cave to live in. You can  
live in this tree trunk where you will be safe.”

Harry smiled and hopped up and down. “This is  
perfect!” she cried. He gave Bubba a big hug. “I love  
bears,” he said.



**Questions:**

1. Harry was a \_\_\_\_\_.
  
2. What kind of animal was Bubba?
  - a. Bubba was a mouse.
  - b. Bubba was a frog.
  - c. Bubba was a hare.
  - d. Bubba was a bear.
  
3. What did Harry think about bears at the start of the story?

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4. What did Harry think about bears at the end of the story?

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5. What changed Harry's mind about bears?

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**Answers:**

1. Harry was a hare.
2. What kind of animal was Bubba?  
d. Bubba was a bear.
3. What did Harry think about bears at the start of the story?  
Harry did not like bears at the start of the story.
4. What did Harry think about bears at the end of the story?  
Harry loved bears at the end of the story.
5. What changed Harry's mind about bears?  
Bubba brought them a new home.