

THE ANIMAL KINDERGARTEN BY THE OLD OAK TREE

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Illustrated by: SEN students of CUDV DOBRNA



EASY TO
READ



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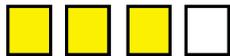
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THE ANIMAL KINDERGARTEN BY THE OLD OAK TREE

Deep in the forest stands an old oak tree. Next to the old oak tree, there is a special kindergarten. The kindergarten is called The Animal Kindergarten by the old oak tree. At the Animal Kindergarten by the old oak tree, the animals explore and learn every day with the help of nature. Their teacher is Zofka the owl. Owl Zofka is very wise and patient. **“Good morning, little explorers!”** calls Zofka as Rudi the squirrel, Pik the hedgehog, Bela the bunny and Miško the little bear gather under the old oak tree. Today they have a special task — learning through a forest adventure.



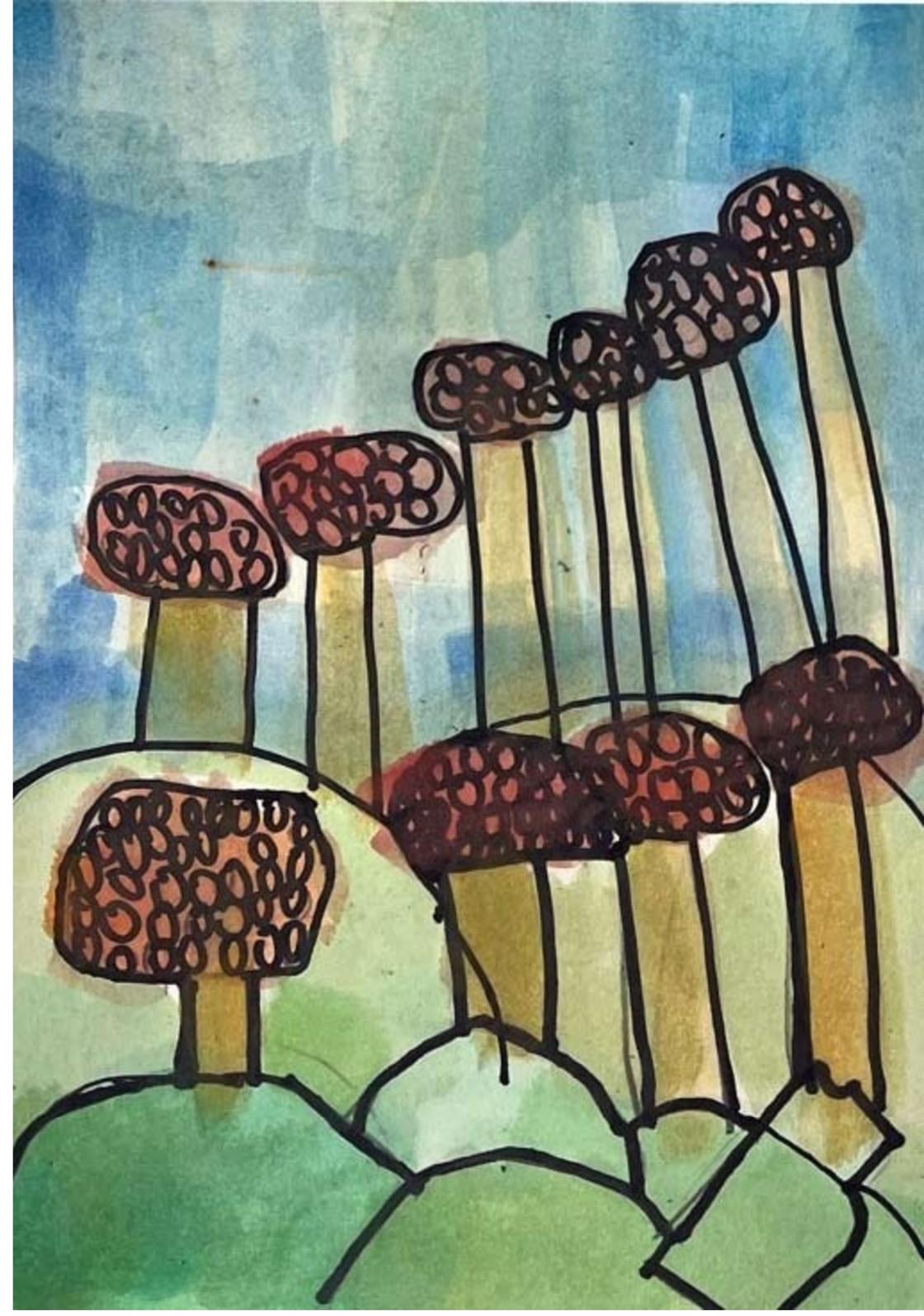
THE TREASURE HUNT

Teacher Zofka hands out baskets to her students. She says, **“Each of you should find something in the forest that makes a sound, something that smells nice, and something that shines in the sun.”** Rudi the squirrel jumps onto a branch. The branch bends and crack! It snaps, and Rudi lands in a pile of moss. His classmates laugh. Teacher Zofka calmly says, **“You see, Rudi, now you’ve found something soft.”** Pik the hedgehog finds a little snail. He tries to get closer to it but gets stuck under the leaves. When he tries to free himself, even more leaves stick to his prickles. Pik looks like a small bush! Bela the bunny can barely recognize him. She giggles and cheerfully says, **“Look, Pik has turned into an autumn bouquet!”**



LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

The students fill their baskets, and Teacher Zofka explains, “**The leaves rustle like music, and a drop of dew sparkles like a jewel.**” The children listen closely to Teacher Zofka. They are curious, so they try everything out. They listen to **the rustling of the leaves**, smell the mushrooms, touch the bark, and make soft pillows out of moss.



A MISCHIEVOUS ADVENTURE

Miško the little bear is full of excitement about nature.

In his enthusiasm, he sits on his basket.

A loud crack is heard.

The basket breaks into pieces.

Miško blushes.

Teacher Zofka explains to the class,

“A true explorer knows that something new can be made from broken pieces.”

Together, the students weave a new basket out of branches and grass.

The basket turns out even stronger than before.



COUNTING WITH NATURAL MATERIALS

Teacher Zofka invites the students to count.

“Let’s try counting, children.

How many pinecones are in the basket?

How many leaves?

How many small stones?”

Rudi starts counting:

“One pinecone, two pinecones, three pinecones...” Together they add them all up and discover that there are ten **treasures of nature** in the basket. After counting, they start building small towers. Each object represents one tower. Pik accidentally bumps into a tower, and the pinecones, leaves, and little stones scatter across the ground. His classmates laugh. Teacher Zofka tells them, “You see, we can learn even from our mistakes. Counting again is just as fun!”



For the last task, they line up the towers in a row.
With the help of nature's objects,
the students learn to count to ten.
They realize
that nature hides a true treasure
for play and learning.



THE QUIET ADVENTURE

Teacher Zofka invites her students to play a forest game of silence.

Each student must find their own spot, sit down, and listen.

At first, the students find it strange and boring.

Soon, they begin to hear things they don't usually notice while playing or chatting.

They hear

the bubbling of a stream,

the singing of birds,

the rustling of leaves in the wind.

When they gather again,

each student shares what they heard.

They realize

that in peace and silence

many sounds can be heard —

but only if we truly listen.



END OF THE DAY

The sun begins to set.

Teacher Zofka gathers all the little animals.

“You see, children,” she says,

“the forest teaches us patience, curiosity, and joy. Every mistake is just a new opportunity for play and learning.”

The little explorers yawn with tiredness, their eyes shining with happiness.

The Animal Kindergarten by the old oak tree is a proof that nature is the best classroom of all.



DICTIONARY OF DIFFICULT WORDS

Rustling of leaves –the soft sound leaves make in the wind

Treasures of nature – things we find in nature

Jewel - a precious stone that shines

Dew drop - a drop of water that forms overnight