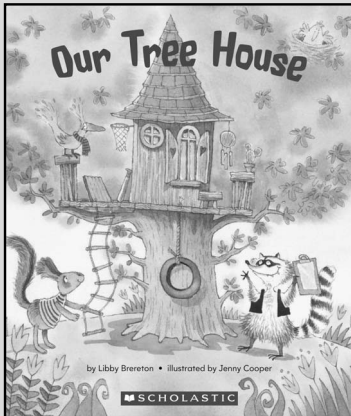


# Our Tree House



## Our Tree House Teachers' Notes

**Learning objective:** Year 1, 7c: Make predictions showing an understanding of ideas, events and characters

**Key words:** house, their, looked, could

**Cross-curricular/theme links:** Friendship, sharing

**Genre:** Fiction

**NC level:** Approximately Level 1C-1B

**Assessment:** AF3, Level 1: Reasonable inference at a basic level

**Word count:** 350

### Getting started

Read the title and blurb together. Ask: 'Have you ever played in a tree house? What was it like?' Share predictions about the story, based on the cover.

### Guided reading

**Pages 2-3:** There is lots of text in this story, but most words should be decodable. Remind the children to use phonic knowledge when tackling unknown words. Ask: 'Do you think Squirrel, Raccoon and Bird had fun in their club?'

**Pages 4-5:** On page 5, ask: 'What do you think Cat will do? Will he go into the tree house? What might happen next?'

**Pages 6-7:** Ask: 'What might happen when Squirrel, Raccoon and Bird find out that the others are in their tree house? What would you do, if you were them?'

**Pages 8-10:** Can the children explain why Squirrel, Raccoon and Bird were so cross, and why the others were sad? Ask: 'What could happen to make things better?'

**Pages 11-13:** Why do the children think Squirrel and Bird felt bad? Ask: 'What reasons does Raccoon give on page 12 to explain why the others shouldn't be allowed to share the tree house? Do you think he is right?' On page 13, ask: 'Do you think Raccoon will change his mind?'

**Pages 14-16:** Ask: 'Do you think this is a good ending? Will all the animals have more fun in the tree house now?'

### Speaking and listening

- In pairs or small groups, the children could role-play a real-life scene based on the story. For example, what would happen if they were playing a good game at break time and someone they weren't friends with wanted to join in?

### After reading

Use these questions to help children talk about the story.

- Who did the tree house club belong to, at the start of the story?
- Why did Cat, Mouse and Hamster want to join in? Why didn't the others want to let them?
- What happened at the end of the story?

### Reading into writing

Children could write and illustrate a poster to advertise the tree house club, inviting more animals to join.

### Book quiz for children

- 1 What did Squirrel, Raccoon and Bird like to do in their tree house?
- 2 How did Cat, Mouse and Hamster feel when the others told them to get out of the tree house?
- 3 How did Raccoon feel about letting Cat, Mouse and Hamster join the club, at first? How did he feel about it, by the end of the story?

### Support for less confident readers

Because this story is relatively long, less confident readers may find it easier to tackle in three short chunks – for example, pages 2-6, 7-10 and 11 to 16.

### Extension for more confident readers

The children could design their own tree house club. Encourage them to draw a detailed picture or make a model, and write a paragraph about all the fantastic features of their tree house.