

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# THE CHRISTMAS TREE DETECTIVE

by EasyReadStories.com

It was a frosty morning in Frosty Hollow, and Nutty the squirrel was wide awake. His fluffy tail twitched as he peeked out of his cozy tree home. "Time to gather acorns!" he said, grabbing his tiny detective hat. Nutty wasn't just any squirrel—he was the best detective in the forest. But when Nutty reached his favorite spot under the big oak tree, his whiskers twitched with alarm. "My acorns are missing!" he exclaimed. The ground was bare, except for a shiny red ribbon tied to a branch. Nutty put on his detective hat and sniffed the air. "Something strange is going on," he said. "And I'm going to crack the case!"

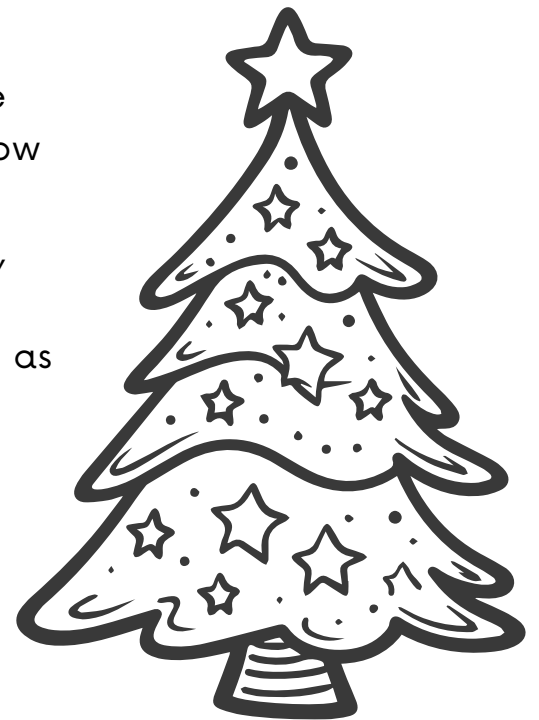
## A Strange Clue

Nutty followed the red ribbon. It led him to the meadow where the biggest tree in Frosty Hollow stood tall and proud. But today, it looked... different. The tree sparkled with shiny baubles, tinsel, and candy canes.

"What in the frosty world?" Nutty said, his eyes as wide as acorns.

At the base of the tree, he spotted a group of animals: Benny the beaver, Tilly the turtle, and Chirp the bird. They were busily hanging ornaments on the branches.

"Stop right there!" Nutty shouted, scampering down a branch. "What are you doing with my acorns?!"



### **The Big Surprise**

Benny the beaver looked up, holding a gold bell in his paws. "Oh, hi, Nutty! We borrowed a few acorns to decorate the tree. They were so shiny and perfect!"

"Decorate the tree?" Nutty said, tilting his head. "Why?"

Tilly the turtle smiled. "We're making a Christmas tree for Santa! We want him to know how much we love Christmas."

"But why didn't you just ask?" Nutty said, tapping his tiny paw.

Chirp fluttered down with a candy cane. "We wanted it to be a surprise for everyone, including you!"

### **Teamwork Saves the Day**

Nutty scratched his head. The tree did look beautiful, but it needed a little something extra. "Well," he said, "if this tree is for Santa, it needs to be perfect. And I'm just the squirrel to help."

The animals cheered, and Nutty got to work. He found the shiniest pinecones, the fluffiest snow, and even used his detective magnifying glass to make the star on top sparkle extra bright.

When they were done, the tree glittered like magic.

### **A Christmas to Remember**

That night, the animals gathered around their sparkling tree. Snow fell softly, and Nutty smiled as he nibbled a cookie Benny had made.

Suddenly, a soft jingling sound filled the air. Everyone looked up to see a sleigh swoop across the moonlit sky. "It's Santa!" Chirp cried.

Santa waved as he passed by, his sleigh glowing with magic. Nutty's chest puffed with pride. "Mystery solved," he said. "And I think Santa loved the surprise."

From that day on, the animals of Frosty Hollow made a Christmas tree every year. And Nutty the squirrel, the best detective in the forest, always made sure it was perfect.

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How did Nutty solve the mystery of his missing acorns?

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Why do you think the animals didn't ask Nutty before borrowing his acorns?

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How do you think Nutty felt when he discovered his acorns were missing?

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### Comprehension Questions

How did Nutty feel when he first saw the decorated tree?

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Why were the animals borrowing Nutty's acorns?

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What did Nutty add to the Christmas tree to make it more magical?

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Draw the other half of this shape.

