

Name: _____

Date: _____

The Planet of the Trees

by Judi Tertini

Zendel's high-speed space shuttle rested in a clearing among many trees. This whole unknown planet seemed to be covered with trees, but there were dwellings, too. He had glimpsed a cluster of them as he came in.

Zendel's bad landing had jolted the memory map circuit board, and it needed some adjustment before he could use it to discover where he was. First, though, he must see if he could repair the fault that had forced him to make an emergency landing. A magnetic coil—that was all he needed to repair the quantum drive. He began walking in the direction that he thought would take him to the village he had seen.

Trees! He had never been among so many trees. Some had strong, fat trunks and branches reaching upward. Others were white-barked and slender, with limbs that drooped and swayed. Flowers grew in gnarled-root corners. Birds sang. Sometimes there was the sudden movement of an animal surprised. It was like a storybook forest.

But it did not have the security of a storybook forest. Zendel knew that something or someone was following him and, as he walked, he kept his right hand on his laser gun. He was ready to defend himself if he had to.

When Zendel emerged from the great forest, his heart sank. There was the village. It looked ancient, untouched by time. People who lived in such primitive dwellings were not likely to have the magnetic coil he needed. Zendel hesitated, wondering if there was any point in going farther. Then he began walking again. He had to at least try.

Between the forest and village were many small plants. Whatever followed him would be seen if it continued into the open area. As he went forward, he was unsure whether the footsteps, which had stopped when he stopped, had begun again or not. He didn't look behind him.

The small plants Zendel walked through were young trees of a kind he had never seen. Zendel broke a twig off one to sniff the leaves. He pulled up another and looked at the roots. There was a sudden rush of feet behind him! His weapon was torn from him as he turned, and his arms were pinned to his sides.

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1. Zendel was MOST suspicious of
 - A. the ancient village.
 - B. someone following him.
 - C. the animals in the forest.
 - D. the new trees he discovered.
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2. Which word BEST describes Zendel's actions?

- A. scared
 - B. confused
 - C. friendly
 - D. careful
-

3. Which was the MAIN problem that caused Zendel's emergency landing?

- A. a bumpy landing
 - B. some broken trees
 - C. a damaged quantum drive
 - D. some frightened forest animals
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Summer's Heat

In mid-afternoon's summer heat
The shade of Gramma's front porch
invites me to relax

The rusty old swing is
just the right place to almost nap
As Gramma tells stories of when Daddy was little
And lets me snuggle against her
red-checked apron and smell
the aroma
of fresh-canned preserves
that lingers on her fingertips.

4. Which is the BEST new title for the passage?

- A. Back Porch
 - B. Left All Alone
 - C. Time with Gramma
 - D. Red-checked Aprons
-

5. What is the setting of the passage?

- A. a park bench
 - B. Gramma's porch
 - C. the swimming hole
 - D. red-checked aprons
-

6. Approximately what time of day is it in the passage?

- A. 9:00 A.M.
 - B. 3:00 P.M.
 - C. 7:00 P.M.
 - D. 11:00 A.M.
-

7. What has Gramma been doing?

- A. laundry
 - B. cleaning the house
 - C. napping
 - D. making preserves
-

8. Gramma can be described as all of the following EXCEPT

- A. kind
- B. warm
- C. talkative
- D. hurried

Answer Key

1. B) someone following him.
2. D) careful
3. C) a damaged quantum drive
4. C) Time with Gramma
5. B) Gramma's porch
6. B) 3:00 P.M.
7. D) making preserves
8. D) hurried