

Festivals



The Hurricane Tree

1116

Reading Booklet

2022 key stage 1 English reading booklet



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What are festivals?

Festivals are special days or times of the year when people celebrate. People might have time off work or school. At festivals, people dance and sing. Sometimes, they wear beautiful costumes and take part in parades. Often, you will see fireworks at festivals.

People all over the world celebrate many different festivals. Below, you can read about some of them.



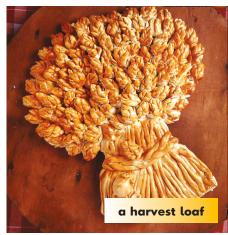


Harvest festivals are held in many countries. They celebrate the food that has been grown and harvested to last throughout the winter.

In this country, harvest festivals take place at the end of September. Many schools make displays of food and flowers. They also give food to charity.

Sometimes, bakers will make special harvest loaves. These loaves are shaped like wheat to celebrate the harvest. Wheat is important because it is used in many types of food, including bread.







New Year festivals

New Year festivals celebrate the end of one year and the beginning of the new one.

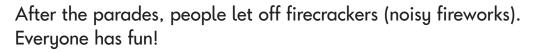
Hogmanay

In Scotland, people call the New Year festival Hogmanay and they celebrate it on the last day of the year. At Hogmanay, there are dazzling firework displays and lots of singing and dancing.

Chinese New Year

The Chinese New Year festival is celebrated on the first day of the new year in the traditional Chinese calendar. This day changes every year but it is always in January or February.

At Chinese New Year, people celebrate with music and dancing. They often have wonderful parades. In the parades, huge puppets move through the streets and people wave colourful flags. The most impressive puppet is the dragon. In Chinese legends, dragons are friendly and bring good luck. In the parades, the dragon puppet always comes last.





a Chinese dragon puppet

Flower festivals

Flower festivals are held all over the world in spring and summer. They usually celebrate the arrival of spring and the new flowers that grow.

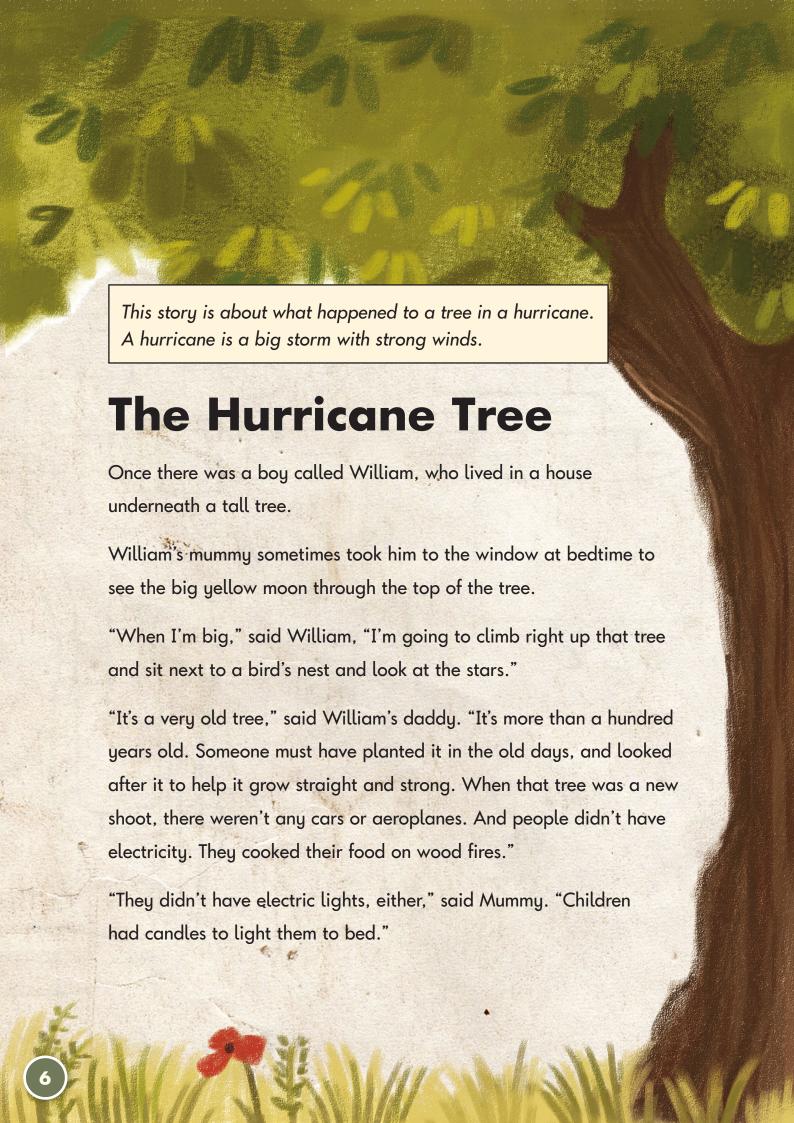
In a country called the Netherlands, people decorate boats and lorries (called floats) with tulips and other flowers. The Netherlands is famous for its tulips.

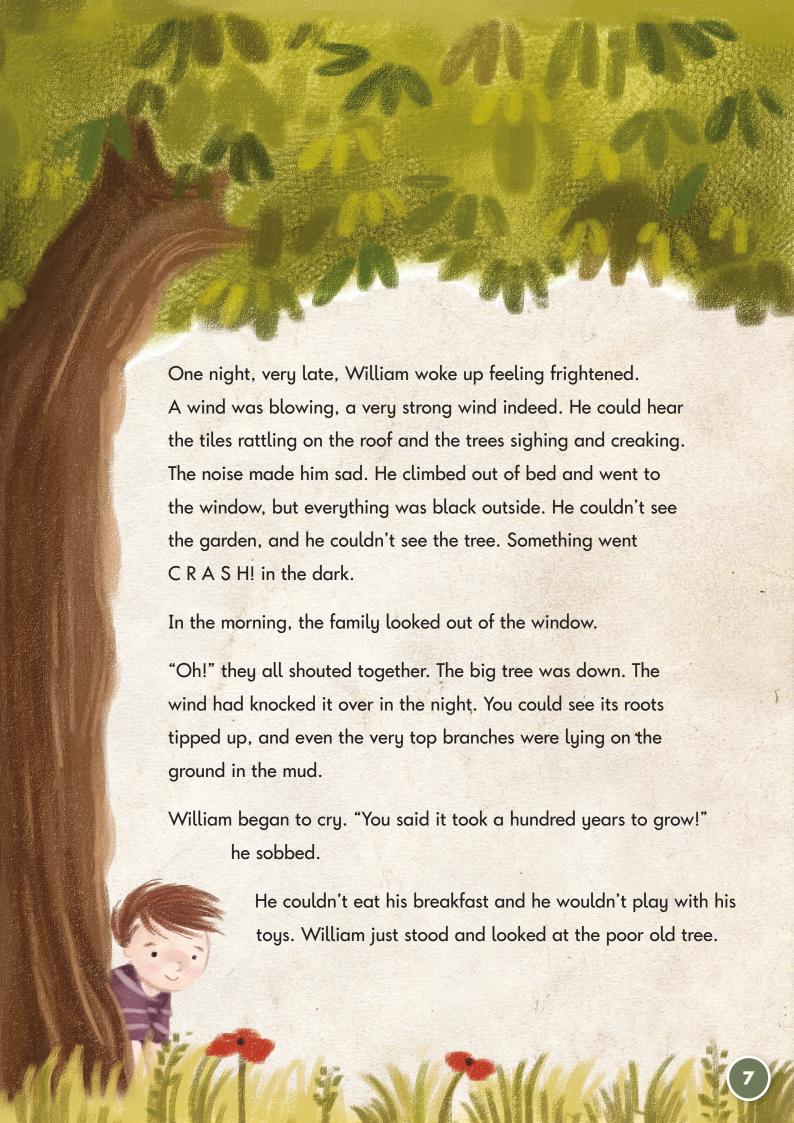
In a country called Italy, people make huge carpets of flowers in the streets. The flowers stay in place for days or even weeks. At the end of the festival, children are allowed to play in the flowers.



a street covered in flowers

On an island called Jersey, people make giant models of animals, boats and cars out of flowers and take these models on a parade through the island's towns. There is music and dancing. At night, the models are covered in lights and they make the streets sparkle. At the end of the parade, there is a huge firework display.





After a while William said, "May I climb on it?"

"Yes," said Daddy. And he helped him up. William sat on the trunk and held a high branch. "I'm a squirrel," he said. Then William climbed further and found a higher branch to sit on. It felt safe and secret, among the leaves. "The tree is still my friend," he said.

There wasn't any electricity all day, because the wind had knocked down all the poles and wires. At lunchtime, they had to make a fire and cook sausages on it.

"We're cooking on a wood fire," said William. "Just like the old days when my tree was little. Will we have to have a candle to light us to bed?"

"Yes, I think so," said Mummy. "And to eat our supper by."



William played on the tree all day. When it was dark, Mummy lit candles in the kitchen. William did a painting of the tree, and said to his daddy, "Can we plant another tree, just like the old one?"

"Yes." Daddy was pleased. "We'll plant a young tree. We'll have to look after it properly while it's little. In a hundred years, your great-grandchildren can play under the tree with all their friends. Every year the tree will get bigger and stronger and more beautiful."

"Will the hundred-years children know it was us who planted it?" said William.

"Well," said Daddy, "they might guess it was someone who loved trees."



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