A Forest Full of Little Clues

For shared looking, ages 2–8. Start with a larger friend or a bright color; smaller clues suit older children or adult help. Difficulty labels are suggestions, not a child assessment.

Look together. Let the picture lead.

Let your child choose where the search begins. A color, a funny object or a friend can be enough for a satisfying first discovery.

Look at the whole forest, then zoom into the tree room, the lower-left trail or the picnic. Choose any three clues and stop whenever you like.

Look together

Start with the whole picture. Let a child choose the first place to explore.

Find three things

Pick any three clues—or invent your own. It is fine to stop sooner.

Describe one

Use a color, shape or place word without pointing. Let someone else look.

Imagine what comes next

Choose a tiny moment and tell, draw or act out one gentle next chapter.

A few gentle invitations

What can you see, and what do you wonder?

Grown-up cue: Start with a visible detail such as a feather or pawprint. A guess about who left it can come afterward.

How could you help me find it without pointing?

Grown-up cue: Try a color, shape or place word: beside the book, under the roots or near the water.

Where might the sunlit trail lead next?

Grown-up cue: Look beneath the lower-left root arch. Let a pawprint, feather or acorn begin a gentle invented adventure.

Offer two places to choose between or find one clue together. Accept pointing, signing, drawing and home-language answers. The same friends appear more than once; these clues describe particular pictured moments.

Choose one discovery to draw or tell someone about. There is no need to find everything.

A shared classroom adventure

15 flexible minutes

Purpose

Practice close observation, positional language and taking turns to describe a visible detail.

Bring

A screen with the picture or a printed panorama; Optional picture clues; Paper and pencils

1. Look together

Let children notice the tree rooms, bridges and water. Invite one observation each without requiring a complete sentence.

2. Find three things

Choose a friend, an object and a color clue. Search together or let partners choose different clues.

3. Describe one without pointing

Use a color, shape and place word to help a partner find one pictured example. Offer gestures or a drawing as another way to give the clue.

4. Invent what happens next

Look at the sunlit trail beneath the lower-left roots. Use one visible clue to tell or draw Benny's next gentle discovery.

Make room for every child

Let a child choose the clue while a partner operates the zoom. Use larger figures first, offer high-detail close-ups as optional challenges, and welcome spoken, signed, drawn or home-language responses.

Pause and reflect

Which detail helped you find your clue, and which detail would you like to explore next?

Words to try

clue: a detail that can help you work something out

observe: look or listen carefully

beside: next to something

Keep the story going

Continue with Benny's missing-acorn mystery in Little Clue Tales. Explore familiar friends and objects in the panorama, then follow their clues in the book.

Benny the Forest Detective - Follow the missing acorns through a forest mystery full of observation puzzles and little clues.

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