



GROUP 1

ROOT CREATURES

Root Creatures live between the tree's roots, and their life so far has been nice and good. It has been quite shady and damp between the tree roots. The Root Creatures help supply the tree with water and other necessary substances from the soil, keeping the root canals clean and free of blockages. Thanks to the nutrients and water obtained from the soil through the roots, the Tree is able to provide delicious fruit and the sweet nectar to all its inhabitants.



Something is wrong lately!

The Root Creatures have noticed that the water that flows up the root canals has a bad smell and is muddy. The smell spreads everywhere and is beginning to disturb everyday life.

Why is the water smelly and muddy?

The Root Creatures have also noticed that lately there have been a lot of dried leaves and fruit falling down from the Tree. Especially the fruits are shriveled and rotting, and perhaps this dead fruit is then leaking substances into the soil, which then flow back into the tree with groundwater.

What would help?

The Root Creatures have discussed among themselves that if the Fruit Creatures took better care of the fruits, they would not rot and fall off the Tree, preventing the bad substances getting into the soil as well. Maybe the Fruit Creatures shouldn't hollow out so many fruits for making their houses, leaving some just for nectar gathering, so the fruits would be healthier.



GROUP 2

BARK CREATURES

Bark Creatures live in the cracks of tree bark and their task is to keep the bark clean. This was not a very difficult task in the old days, because the rain washed the dust off and they didn't have to do much else. There was enough time for parties in the company of other tree creatures, and to just have fun.

Something is wrong lately!

Strange, smelly mushrooms have started to grow on the bark of the Tree, with mycelium getting even into the homes of the Bark Creatures. The Bark Creatures have tried to cut down the mushrooms, but for every cut mushroom, three new ones grow instead. Soon the trunk of the tree will no longer have a mushroom-free surface at all, and Bark Creatures are seriously worried, because then they have to find homes somewhere else.



Why have these mushrooms started to grow?

The Bark Creatures have noticed that the water flowing up from the roots of the tree has had a bad smell recently. The only logical explanation is that there is something wrong with the water being sent up from the roots, and this is also causing the root mushrooms to grow.

What would help?

The Bark Creatures have discussed among themselves that if the Root Creatures did a better job keeping the root canals of the Tree clean, or set up a filtration system, the water would be cleaner and the fungi would disappear.



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GROUP 3

SHADE CREATURES

Shade Creatures live in the shade between the Tree branches, and under the leaves. Their job (same as the Sun Creatures') is to collect the sweet nectar from the leaves and share it with everyone else.

Something is wrong lately!

The Shade Creatures like cool, but lately it has been too hot even in the shade. On sunny days, the temperature rises impossibly high and there is nowhere to hide because many outer leaves have dried up and fell off the Tree entirely.



Why is it so hot?

The Shade Creatures have realized that it is too hot most probably because so many leaves have dried up and fallen down, and there is nothing left to protect them from the sun and heat.

What would help?

The Shade Creatures have discussed among themselves that the leaves shrivel up and dry when too much nectar is harvested. The Shade Creatures themselves haven't started consuming more nectar, so the Sun Creatures must be to blame – they must have become greedy and are draining the leaves of their nectar.



GROUP 4

SUN CREATURES

Sun Creatures live on the sunny side of the tree canopy and on the leaves. Their job is to collect sweet nectar from the leaves (same as Shade Creatures') and share it with everyone else. The Sun Creatures often organize big parties for all ree inhabitants, with lots of sweet nectar, music and fun games.



Something is wrong lately!

The Sun Creatures like warmth, so even though it has been hotter than usual lately, they are not much disturbed. However, they are affected by the fact that there is less and less sweet leaf nectar nowadays. Leaves only have a few drops of nectar left and then wither and fall off. There's mostly enough to feed everybody, but not enough for parties. And the parties are no fun without the sweet nectar.

Why is there less nectar?

The Sun Creatures have noticed that the Shade Creatures have no shortage of nectar and suspect that they are hoarding the nectar, which leaves less for the leaves on the sunny side. Or, it could be because too little water is being sent up from the roots.

What would help?

The Sun Creatures have discussed among themselves that the Shade Creatures should consume less nectar, so that there would also be enough for the Sun Creatures. And additionally, the Root creatures should send more water upwards.



GROUP 5

FRUIT CREATURES

The Tree of Life has large and juicy fruits, which are home to Fruit Creatures and also provide sweet nectar for food for all tree inhabitants. Fruits have a strong outer shell and inside them the Fruit Creatures carve wonderful spacious homes. For hundreds of years, each fruit has been inhabited by one Fruit Creature. The nectar collected from the fruits is shared by the Fruit Creatures with all the tree inhabitants, both for daily food and to share on big parties and festivals.



Something is wrong lately!

The life of Fruit Creatures has recently become almost unbearable – the fruits simply dry up or begin to rot, eventually falling off the tree altogether. The Fruit Creatures have had to change their homes or move in with friends, and the amount of nectar has also decreased due to fallen fruits. If it continues at the same pace, soon they will all be homeless and hungry, because the fruits are dying.

Why do fruits dry and rot?

The Fruit Creatures really don't understand what's wrong with the fruits. Since the Bark Creatures are complaining about smelly mushrooms, perhaps their fruit also has some bad disease caused by the bad water sent up by the root dwellers?

What would help?

The Fruit Creatures have discussed among themselves that if the Root Creatures did a better job of taking care of the root canals, for example setting up filtration systems, the water would be cleaner and the fruits healthier.