

Time Out

Narrative Elements

One day after school, Paula sat under the old oak tree, pencil in her hand and notepad on her lap. She glanced back towards the house. She knew her little sister, who was always so full of energy, was looking for her. She didn't feel like running around playing tag, building towers or playing with dolls. All Paula wanted to do was to practise her sketching in peace. She had tried to teach Jade many times before, but Jade would get bored after two minutes and then want Paula to play something else. Paula loved Jade, but there were moments when she needed a little space to herself. For this reason, Paula often snuck out quietly to their backyard of an afternoon.

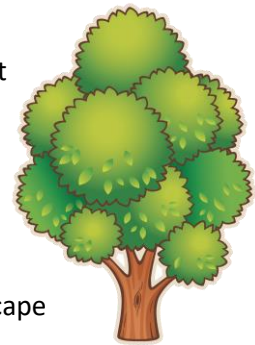
Paula stared up at the enormous oak tree in front of her, trying to see the individual lines and shapes that made up its enormous trunk.

"Paula! Where are you?" a voice called from somewhere inside the house.

Paula sighed. She watched a small beetle scurry into a small hole in the trunk. At that moment, an idea popped into Paula's head. She flipped to a new page and began sketching. Every now and then she would look back up at the oak tree, taking note of the location of different branches and then go back to her sketch.

Happy with what she had done, Paula held the page out in front of her.

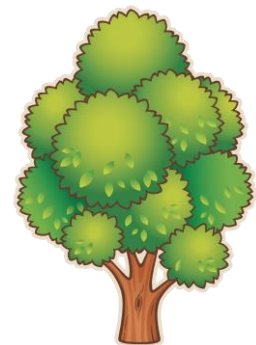
Perfect! She thought, looking at her sketch of a secret hideaway where she could escape everyone and everything.



Time Out - Questions

Narrative Elements

1. Who is the main character in the story? How do you know?
2. What do you know about the main character so far?
3. Where is the story set?
4. What do you think might happen next in the story?
5. What do you think might happen in the end of the story?
6. Why do you think the story is called 'Growing Up'?



Time Out - Answers

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1. Paula is the main character (Reasons will vary).
2. Paula is a kind, loving and patient sister, but wants some space from her little sister, Jade. Paula is growing up and starting to want some independence.
3. In the Paula's backyard.
4. (Answers will vary) Paula might begin gathering materials to build the secret hideaway.
5. (Answers will vary) Paula might finish building her hideaway and eventually invite Jade to join her.
6. (Answers will vary)

