

The Golden Nugget

Once upon a time, many years ago, there lived two friends named Hamish and Robbie. These two young men loved each other dearly and were always together. No cross words passed between them and no unkind thoughts marred their friendship.

It was a bright, beautiful day in early spring when Hamish and Robbie set out for a stroll together for they were tired of the city and its noises.

“Let us go into the heart of the pine forest,” said Hamish lightly. “There we can forget our cares, breathe the sweetness of the flowers and lie on the moss-covered ground.”

“Good idea,” said Robbie, “I, too, am tired. The forest is the place for a rest.”

Happily, they passed along the winding road and their eyes turned towards the distant tree-tops. Their hearts beat faster as they drew nearer and nearer to the woods.

“For thirty days I have worked hard,” sighed Hamish. “For thirty days I have not had a rest. My head is stuffed so full of learning, that I am afraid it will burst. I cannot wait for a breath of the pure air blowing through the trees.”

Now they came to the border of the forest, crossed a little stream and walked amongst the trees and shrubs. For many hours they rambled on, talking and laughing merrily, when suddenly they saw something shining in the pathway directly in front of them.

“Look!” said both men, speaking at the same time, and pointing toward the treasure.



1. ‘...no unkind thoughts marred their friendship.’ What might the word ‘marred’ mean in this sentence?



2. How long had Hamish been working for without a rest?



3. How did Hamish and Robbie feel about each other? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.



4. What do you think the men saw on the pathway?

The Golden Nugget Answers

1. '...no unkind thoughts marred their friendship.' What might the word 'marred' mean in this sentence?

Accept any reasonable answer referring to spoiling or ruining their friendship.

2. How long had Hamish been working for without a rest?

Thirty days.

3. How did Hamish and Robbie feel about each other? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Accept any reasonable answer referring to the fact that Hamish and Robbie care about each other, providing it has supporting evidence from the text, e.g.:

They loved each other: 'these two young men loved each other dearly'.

They were very good friends: 'no unkind thoughts marred their friendship'.

They enjoyed each other's company: 'were always together', 'set out for a stroll together', 'happily they passed' or 'talking and laughing merrily'.

4. What do you think the men saw on the pathway?

Accept the answer 'a golden nugget' or 'golden treasure' as it is implied in the title of the text.