



Glossary

Adaptation – A structure or behavior that helps a living thing survive. Gracie’s adaptation in the story is her color and ability to be very still.

Bud – Can grow into a new twig.

Branchlet – This is the growth of a branch from the previous year.

Calories – A measure of how much energy there is in carbohydrates and fats.

Camouflaged – An animal’s color blends into its habitat.

Canopy – This level is the thickest level of a rainforest where most animal live. Flowers and fruit are abundant in the canopy.

Carbohydrates – Sugars (high-energy), starch (can be changed into sugars or fats), and fiber (no-energy) are carbohydrate foods.

Cecropia Tree – Small tropical trees that grown in open areas. Their leaves do not have bitter poisons. One of Grandmother sloth’s favorite foods.

Commensalism – One member of a symbiotic relationship is helped and the other member is not helped or harmed.

Compete – This is the behavior an animal will do to defend its territory.

Detritus – The dead plant and animal material on the forest floor.

Emergent – This is the highest level of a rainforest. The emergent level has the tallest trees that “pop” out of the canopy.

Fat – Is a food that has stored-energy which can be used when carbohydrate energy is low.

Food – Plants and animals need carbohydrates, fats, proteins, and vitamins to grow and stay alive.

Food Chain – A food chain shows what an animal eats and what eats that animal.

Forest Floor – The small plants (mosses, herbs) and leaf litter on the ground make up the forest floor level. **Habitat** – A habitat is where an animal or plant lives. The different levels (forest floor, understory, canopy, emergent) of a rainforest are different habitats. Grandmother Sloth’s habitat is the understory. Spidy and the howler monkeys’ habitat is the canopy. The emergent level is the habitat of the harpy eagle.

Harpy Eagle – The harpy eagle is the largest bird predator in the rainforest. It mainly hunts monkeys and sloths.

Herbivores – Herbivores are animals that eat green plants.

Howler Monkey – Spider monkeys and howler monkeys are the two largest monkeys in the Amazon rainforest. Howler monkeys get their name because they can roar and be heard up to three miles to mark their territory.

Leaf – The leaf is the structure (organ) of a plant that uses sunlight, air, and water to produce sugar.

Leaflet – The leaflet is a part of a compound leaf.

Leafstalk – The leafstalk connects the leaf to the twig.

Mutualism – Mutualism is when both members of a symbiotic relationship help each other.

Nectar – Nectar is a liquid produced by plants full of sugar.

Niche – The niche is a job a living thing has in their habitat. The position a living thing has in a food chain, symbiotic relationship, and the role they play in the cycling of living and non-living things defines their niche or job.

Opposable – Your thumb is opposable, or opposite, your fingers. This allows you to grasp something with your hand.

Parasitism – Parasitism is when one member of a symbiotic relationship is helped and the other member is harmed.

Predators – Predators are animals that kill and eat other animals.

Prehensile Tail – This adaptation allows animals to hang from their tails without using hands or feet.

Producers – Producers are green plants that use sunlight, air, and water to make sugar.

Specialist – In a food chain, a specialist will eat mainly one kind of food.

Symbiosis – Symbiosis is when two kinds (species) of living things have a relationship.

Talons – The claws of a predator bird.

Territory – This is the area within a habitat that an animal, or a group of animals, defend as their own.

Twig – A twig is the newest growth at the end of a branch.

Understory – The understory level of a rainforest has small trees, palms, and shrubs. Gracie lives in the understory.