



## Exercise 11 A Happy Boy

Bevis had wandered far into the woods, looking at this thing and talking to that. When, at length, he began to think of returning to the place where he had left his father loading hay, he found that he did not know which way to go.

Just as he was thinking he would ask a bee to show him the way (for there was not a single bird in the woods), he came to a place where the oaks were thinner, and the space between them was covered with bramble bushes. Here there were ripe blackberries, and soon his lips were stained with their juice. Passing on from bramble thicket to bramble thicket, by and by he shouted and danced and clapped his hands with joy, for there were some nuts on a hazel bough, and they were ripe, he was sure, for the side toward the sun was rosy.

Out came his pocket knife, and with seven tremendous slashes, off came a branch with a crook. He crooked down a bough and gathered the nuts; there were eight on that bough, and on the next, four, and on the next only two. But there was another bough beyond, from which in a minute, he had twenty more. He could not stay to crack them, but crammed them in his pocket and ceased to count.

“I will take fifty up to the squirrel,” he said.

(From *Wood Magic* by Richard Jefferies.)

### Questions and Exercises

- (a) Where was Bevis wandering about? (b) What was he doing?
- (a) What was his father doing whilst Bevis was in the woods?  
(b) Why could not Bevis return to his father when he thought of doing so?
- (a) Whom did he think he would ask to show him the way?  
(b) Why did he not ask a bird to show him?  
(c) Was that a strange thing or not? Give a reason.
- (a) What fruit did Bevis find growing?  
(b) Another name for this fruit is b . . . . . y  
(c) How can you tell that the boy ate some of the fruit?