

Creative Writing: The Secret Garden Gateway

Learning objective: To use descriptive language and expanded noun phrases to create a vivid setting in a story.

Read the story opening below. Use the word bank to help you answer the questions and extend the story with your own creative ideas.

Leo the lion stepped cautiously through the rusted iron gates. He had discovered a hidden path behind the old library, and it led him to a place that felt frozen in time. Before him lay a secret garden, filled with emerald-green vines that climbed up crumbling stone walls. The air was thick with the fragrant scent of wild roses, and shimmering blue butterflies danced around a silver fountain. As Leo walked further, he noticed the whispering leaves of a giant willow tree, which seemed to be guarding a small, golden key half-buried in the damp soil.

Word bank: shimmering · ancient · whispering · emerald · mysterious · fragrant

1. Which two adjectives does the author use to describe the vines in the garden? (1 mark)

2. How do we know that the garden has been forgotten or left alone for a long time? Give two examples from the text. (2 marks)

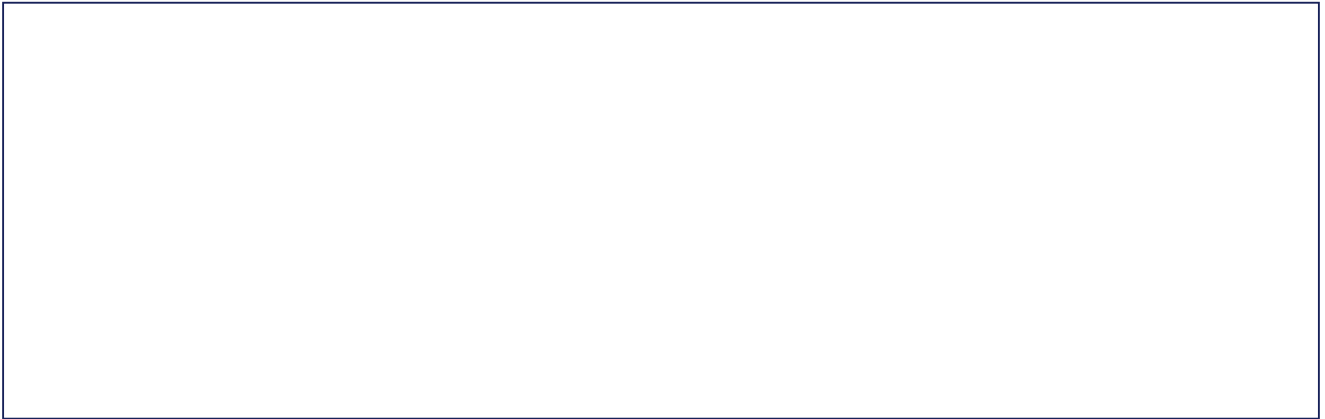
3. The author describes the leaves as 'whispering'. Why do you think they used this word instead of 'making a noise'? (2 marks)

4. Find and write down one 'expanded noun phrase' used in the passage (a phrase that uses adjectives to describe a noun). (1 mark)

5. What do you think Leo will find if he uses the golden key? Describe what the object looks like using at least two adjectives. (2 marks)

6. If Leo met a new friend in the garden, how would they describe the garden to him? Write one sentence using a word from the word bank. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of the secret garden, making sure to include the silver fountain and the giant willow tree.



Extension challenge: Write the next paragraph of the story. Describe Leo picking up the key and discovering what it unlocks. Try to use a simile (e.g., 'as bright as the sun') to describe something in the scene.