

The Secret of the Paragraphs

Learning objective: To understand the purpose of paragraphs and identify when to start a new one.

Read the story carefully. Use the text to answer the questions that follow. Remember to write in full sentences.

Pip the caterpillar loved collecting words, but he had a problem. His stories were just one long, giant wall of text! It was very tiring for his friends to read because they didn't know where one idea ended and another began.

One sunny afternoon, Max the monkey noticed Pip struggling. "Your story is like a huge pile of bananas!" Max exclaimed. "You need to chop it into smaller pieces. We call these paragraphs."

Max explained that a writer should start a new paragraph whenever there is a change in time, place, or person. He showed Pip how to leave a gap or indent the first line. This creates a 'breathing space' for the reader.

Pip tried this immediately. He wrote a paragraph about the morning dew, then started a new one when he moved to the forest. Suddenly, his writing looked neat and organised. Pip felt proud because his stories were now much easier to enjoy. He realised that paragraphs weren't just rules; they were like maps that guided the reader through the adventure.

Word bank: structure · transition · organise · topic · chunk

1. What problem did Pip have with his stories at the beginning of the text? (1 mark)

2. According to Max, what three things should trigger a writer to start a new paragraph? (2 marks)

3. Why did Max compare Pip's story to a 'huge pile of bananas'? (2 marks)

4. How did Pip's feelings change from the start of the story to the end? (2 marks)

5. Do you think Max is a good teacher? Use evidence from the text to justify your answer. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Pip the caterpillar and Max the monkey looking at a page of writing together.



Extension challenge: Write a short story about a rainy day. Use at least three paragraphs: one for the start of the rain, one for what you did indoors, and one for when the sun came out.