

Year 4 Assessment: The Art of the Book Review

Learning objective: To evaluate a reader's ability to analyse literature, summarise key events, and provide a critical, persuasive review of a text.

Read the text below carefully. Answer all questions in full sentences, using precise vocabulary. Ensure your review includes a clear opinion supported by evidence from the text.

In 'The Moonlit Forest' by H. P. Sterling, our protagonist, an inquisitive young fox named Finnegan, discovers a hidden path behind the ancient oak tree. As the silver moonlight filters through the canopy, Finnegan encounters a grumpy badger who guards the entrance to a library made entirely of roots and moss. The narrative follows their unlikely partnership as they work to decipher an ancient map etched into a golden leaf. The author uses vivid, sensory language to describe the forest, making the reader feel as though they are walking on the soft pine needles themselves. While the pacing in the middle chapters slows down slightly, the heart-warming conclusion makes the journey well worth the effort.

Word bank: persuasive · captivating · chronological · character development · vocabulary · critique · recommendation · atmosphere

1. Identify the genre of this story and explain one piece of evidence from the text that supports your choice. (2 marks)

2. How does the author create a specific atmosphere in the story? Provide a direct quote to justify your answer. (3 marks)

3. What does the word 'protagonist' mean in the context of this passage? Explain why Finnegan fits this description. (3 marks)

4. The reviewer mentions that the 'pacing in the middle chapters slows down'. Explain why this might be considered a negative aspect of a book. (3 marks)

5. Compare the character of Finnegan with the grumpy badger. Contrast their likely roles in the story based on the adjectives provided. (4 marks)

6. Write a short, persuasive book review (approx. 50-75 words) based on the passage. You must include a clear recommendation of who would enjoy reading this book and why. (10 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene depicting the library made of roots and moss described in the text, focusing on the contrast between the silver moonlight and the dark forest floor.



Extension challenge: Justify your answer: If you were the author, how would you rewrite the middle chapters to ensure the pacing remains fast-paced? What might happen if the golden leaf map was lost before the characters reached the end of their journey? Total: /25