

Mastering the Art of the Book Review with Pip the Bookworm

Learning objective: To evaluate a narrative text by identifying key themes and providing a reasoned personal opinion.

Read the short review below written by Pip the Bookworm. Use the vocabulary provided to help you answer the questions. Think critically about the author's choices and the impact on the reader.

In 'The Secret of the Whispering Woods', the author crafts a captivating tale about a young explorer discovering a hidden library beneath an ancient oak tree. The atmosphere is truly evocative, with descriptions of sunlight filtering through leaves and the smell of old parchment. The main character, Elara, faces a difficult dilemma: should she keep the library a secret or share its wisdom with the village? The tension builds perfectly towards a thrilling climax that left me breathless. I found the characterisation of the grumpy forest guardian particularly well-developed, as he slowly softens throughout the story. This book is a must-read for anyone who loves mysteries and magical adventures.

Word bank: captivating · persuasive · narrative · characterisation · atmosphere · evocative · dilemma · climax

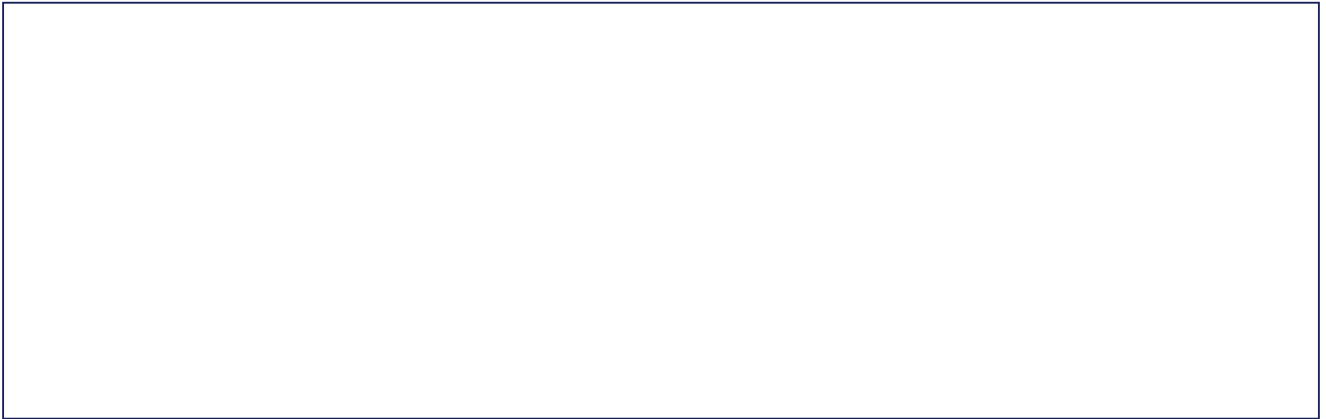
1. Identify one specific piece of evidence from the text that supports Pip's claim that the story has an 'evocative' atmosphere. (2 marks)

2. Explain why the author's decision to include a 'dilemma' for Elara makes the story more engaging for the reader. (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the guardian's personality at the beginning of the book versus the end. Justify your answer using the text. (3 marks)

4. If the author had chosen to remove the 'climax' from the story, what might happen to the reader's overall enjoyment of the book? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene depicting the 'hidden library' described in the passage. Include details that capture the magical, ancient atmosphere Pip mentioned.



Extension challenge: Write a persuasive paragraph (5-7 sentences) recommending a book you have recently read. You must use at least four words from the word bank and include a rhetorical question to hook your potential reader.