

The Winter Solstice Mystery: A Creative Narrative Challenge

Learning objective: To craft a coherent, descriptive narrative using fronted adverbials, expanded noun phrases, and emotive language appropriate for a Year 4 audience.

Max the monkey has found a shimmering, silver key buried in the frost of the forest floor, but he doesn't know which magical Christmas door it opens. Use the word bank and the 'story prompts' below to write a short narrative. You must include at least two fronted adverbials (e.g., 'With a joyful leap,' or 'Deep in the heart of the woods,') and three expanded noun phrases to bring your setting to life.

Word bank: shimmering · frost-covered · enchanted · mischievous · tinkling · spectacular · unexpected · twinkling · cosy · tranquil

1. 1. Write an opening sentence that introduces Max finding the silver key. Use an expanded noun phrase to describe the key. (2 marks)

2. 2. Max approaches a secret door. Describe what he sees using a fronted adverbial to start your sentence. (2 marks)

3. 3. Explain why Max might feel nervous yet excited as he turns the key in the lock. Justify your answer using descriptive verbs. (2 marks)

4. 4. Compare and contrast how the forest feels compared to what Max finds behind the secret door. (2 marks)

5. 5. What might happen if the key was actually a gift left for someone else? Provide a creative consequence. (2 marks)

6. 6. Justify why the author chose to use the word 'tranquil' instead of 'quiet' to describe the winter scene. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a detailed illustration of the secret door Max discovers. Include the shimmering silver key and the magical scene visible through the gap in the door.



Extension challenge: Write a diary entry from Max's perspective describing the events of the evening. Include a section where you calculate the cost of a festive feast for his friends: if a loaf of bread costs £1.20 and a jar of honey costs £2.50, what is the total for the party?