

Year 4 English: Crafting a Festive Tale

Learning objective: To understand narrative structure, character development, and descriptive language within a Christmas-themed story context.

Use these flashcards to explore the elements of a winter story. Read the term on the left, then check the answer on the right to build your storytelling vocabulary.

Atmosphere

The mood or feeling created in a story through descriptive language, such as 'a cosy, snow-dusted village' or 'a chilly, mysterious forest'.

Protagonist

The main character who drives the story forward, for example, Leo the Lion embarking on a quest to deliver a gift.

Sensory Imagery

Descriptive writing that appeals to the five senses (sight, sound, smell, taste, touch) to help the reader imagine the winter scene.

Climax

The most exciting or intense part of the story, such as when a character finally discovers the mystery behind a glowing star.

Adverbial Phrase

A group of words that tells us more about a verb, for instance, 'with great excitement' or 'under the twinkling lights'.

Resolution

The final part of the story where the problem is solved and the characters celebrate the festive season together.

Alliteration

The repetition of the same sound at the start of words close together, like 'silent, silver snow'.

Metaphor

A figure of speech stating one thing is another to create a vivid image, such as 'the sky was a velvet blanket of stars'.

Empathy

The ability to understand and share the feelings of another character, essential for writing a heart-warming festive tale.

Narrative Arc

The structure of the story, including the introduction, build-up, problem, climax, and resolution.

Show, Don't Tell

A writing technique where you describe a character's actions and reactions rather than stating their emotions directly (e.g., 'Pip shivered and tucked his chin into his scarf' instead of 'Pip was cold').

Antagonist

A character or force that opposes the main character, creating a challenge for them to overcome.