

A Snowy Surprise at the Library

Learning objective: To analyse character perspective and develop descriptive vocabulary within a festive narrative.

Read the story below featuring Pip the bookworm. Use your knowledge of descriptive writing to answer the questions, ensuring you provide evidence from the text where required.

The air inside the Great Oak Library was crisp and smelled faintly of pine needles and old paper. Pip, with his magnifying glass tucked securely under his chin, wiggled excitedly across the mahogany table. Tonight was the Winter Solstice, a time when the library's ancient books were said to glow with a soft, golden light. Pip watched as a single snowflake drifted past the stained-glass window, landing silently upon an open atlas. It looked like a tiny, lace doily. 'The atmosphere is positively magical,' Pip whispered to himself, his voice echoing softly against the towering shelves. He had spent the morning curating a special display of stories, arranging them by their spine colours to create a rainbow effect. Outside, the forest was cloaked in a velvet blanket of snow, but inside, Pip felt the warmth of a hundred hidden adventures waiting to be discovered. He wondered if the characters in the books were also celebrating, their ink-stained hearts beating in rhythm with the winter wind.

Word bank: festive · anticipation · shimmering · whimsical · atmosphere · perspective · metaphor · adjective

1. Identify two adjectives the author uses to describe the atmosphere or setting. Explain why these choices help to create a festive mood. (2 marks)

2. In the text, the snowflake is compared to a 'lace doily'. What type of figurative language is this, and what does it suggest about the snowflake's appearance? (2 marks)

3. How does Pip feel about his work in the library? Justify your answer by referencing specific actions or thoughts mentioned in the passage. (3 marks)

4. Compare and contrast the setting inside the library with the setting outside in the forest. Use evidence from the text to support your comparison. (3 marks)

5. What might happen if the books in the library truly began to glow? Write a short prediction based on the whimsical tone of the story. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene from the library showing Pip's rainbow-coloured book display. Include the stained-glass window and the shimmering, magical light mentioned in the story.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a character living inside one of the books on Pip's shelf. Write a diary entry of 100 words describing how you feel when the library lights go out and the Winter Solstice magic begins. Use at least three ambitious adjectives and one metaphor.