

Crafting a Festive Narrative: The Winter Solstice Mystery

Learning objective: To use descriptive language, fronted adverbials, and expanded noun phrases to create an engaging narrative for a Christmas-themed story.

Use your creative imagination to develop a story set in a snowy, festive landscape. Ensure you include a range of sentence structures and descriptive vocabulary to build atmosphere.

N/A

Word bank: shimmering · anticipation · breathtaking · festive · mysterious · twinkling · hushed · magnificent · tinsel-strewn · glistening

1. Max the monkey wants to write a sentence about a festive marketplace. Write a sentence describing the scene using at least one fronted adverbial and an expanded noun phrase. (2 marks)

2. Pip the bookworm is feeling very excited! Write a paragraph (3-4 sentences) describing the atmosphere of a magical snowy village on Christmas Eve. Use two words from the word bank. (3 marks)

3. Explain why an author might choose to use 'show, don't tell' when describing a character who is feeling nervous about opening a surprise gift. (2 marks)

4. Compare and contrast a festive story set in a bustling city versus one set in a quiet, snow-covered forest. Which setting provides more opportunities for mystery? Justify your answer. (3 marks)

5. What might happen if the 'magic' element of your Christmas story suddenly disappeared? Write a short sentence explaining the impact on your characters. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene from your story featuring Zara the zebra discovering a hidden, glowing object beneath a snow-covered pine tree. Focus on the contrast between the dark forest and the shimmering light.



Extension challenge: Imagine your story is being told by Ellie the elephant, who has a perfect memory for history. Rewrite a key scene from your story in the first person (using 'I'), ensuring the tone reflects Ellie's wise and gentle personality. How does changing the narrator change the way the reader feels about the events?