

Max's Magnificent Story Map

Learning objective: To analyse the structural and linguistic features of a creative narrative.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions below. Ensure you use evidence from the text to support your points.

Max the monkey sat under the ancient oak tree, his notebook balanced precariously on his knee. He was not solving maths puzzles today; instead, he was crafting a tale about a brave explorer named Captain Paws. Max carefully selected his adjectives, choosing 'shimmering' to describe the hidden lagoon and 'colossal' for the mountains that loomed ahead. He knew that a successful story needed a clear structure: a beginning to set the scene, a problem that felt truly challenging, and a resolution that brought everything together.

'The secret is in the patterns of the words,' Max whispered to himself, scribbling quickly. He drew a rough map at the bottom of the page to track the Captain's journey. He wanted the reader to feel the salty sea breeze and hear the rustle of the jungle leaves. By weaving together descriptive language and a logical sequence of events, Max transformed a simple idea into an adventurous expedition. He felt a surge of pride as the final sentence clicked into place like a perfectly solved equation. His story was finally ready to be shared with the world.

Word bank: narrative · alliteration · protagonist · vivid · imaginative · sequence

1. What are two specific adjectives that Max uses to describe the scenery in his story? (2 marks) (2 marks)

2. Identify the three structural parts of a story that Max believes are essential for success. (2 marks) (2 marks)

3. Explain why Max might have chosen to draw a map at the bottom of his page. (3 marks) (3 marks)

4. What does the phrase 'clicked into place like a perfectly solved equation' suggest about how Max feels when he finishes writing? (3 marks) (3 marks)

5. Do you agree that a story is similar to a maths puzzle? Justify your answer using examples from the text. (4 marks) (4 marks)

Draw: Draw your own version of Captain Paws' map, including the shimmering lagoon and the colossal mountains described in Max's story.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are the editor for Max's story. Write a short paragraph explaining why you would choose to publish his work. Compare and contrast the process of writing a story with the process of solving a complex maths problem. What might happen if Max decided to change the setting from a jungle to a futuristic space station? Justify how this change would affect his word choices.