An Afternoon in the Enchanted Orchard

Learning objective: To identify and use expanded noun phrases to add detail and description to writing.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below. Remember to look for nouns and the adjectives that describe them.

Max the monkey skipped through the ancient, sun-dappled orchard. He was searching for the perfect snack. Above him, the bright, golden sun warmed the rustling leaves of the twisted apple trees. Max spotted a large, juicy fruit hanging from a sturdy, low branch. He reached out with his nimble, brown fingers to pluck the delicious treasure. Nearby, Zara the zebra sat on the soft, emerald grass, sketching the scene in her leather-bound notebook. She loved the vibrant, colourful patterns of the wild flowers that danced in the gentle breeze. The sweet, fragrant scent of ripening apples filled the crisp, afternoon air. Max grinned as he took a bite of the crisp, tart apple. It was the best treat he had enjoyed all week. Together, the two friends watched the fluffy, white clouds drift across the endless, blue sky. It was a peaceful day in their secret, magical garden.

Word bank: Expanded noun phrase · Adjective · Noun · Description · Detail · Orchard

1. Find and copy two examples of expanded noun phrases from the text that describe the trees. (2 marks)

2. What are the two adjectives used to describe the apple that Max eats? (2 marks)

3. Why do you think Zara chose to sit on the grass to draw? (2 marks)

4. How does the author show the reader that it is a pleasant day? (2 marks)

5. Do you think the orchard is a good place for Max and Zara to spend their afternoon? Explain your reasons using evidence from the text. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw Max the monkey and Zara the zebra in the orchard, making sure to include the 'twisted apple trees' and 'vibrant, colourful flowers' described in the story.

Extension challenge: Choose two nouns from the text (e.g., 'clouds' or 'fingers') and write your own expanded noun phrase for each by adding two adjectives before the noun and a prepositional phrase after it.