

The Daily Forest Gazette

Learning objective: To identify and understand the key features of a newspaper report, including the headline, orientation, and factual language.

Read the newspaper report below carefully, then answer the questions that follow in full sentences.

A mysterious event took place in the Whispering Woods yesterday morning. Max the monkey, who was busy calculating the number of acorns on the forest floor, became the first witness to a spectacular sight. At precisely 9:00 am, a giant, shimmering bubble drifted slowly above the canopy. Max reported that the bubble glowed with every colour of the rainbow and made a soft, humming sound as it floated towards the Great Oak.

'I have never seen anything like it,' stated Max, while adjusting his glasses. 'It didn't look like a maths problem I could solve, but it was certainly fascinating.'

By 9:15 am, the bubble vanished into thin air, leaving behind only a trail of glittery dust. Bea the honeybee was hovering nearby and confirmed that the air suddenly smelled like sweet strawberries. Local residents are now working with Kit the fox to investigate the origin of the bubble. While no one knows where it came from, the forest remains calm and curious. Whether it was a scientific phenomenon or a bit of forest magic, the Whispering Woods will certainly be watching the skies closely today.

Word bank: headline · journalist · caption · witness · report · past tense

1. At what time did the giant bubble appear, and who saw it first? (2 marks)

2. What two things happened immediately after the bubble vanished? (2 marks)

3. Why might Max the monkey have been surprised by the bubble? (2 marks)

4. What does the phrase 'vanished into thin air' tell the reader about how the bubble disappeared? (2 marks)

5. Do you think the residents of the Whispering Woods are scared of the bubble? Explain your answer using evidence from the text. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the monkey looking up at the shimmering bubble above the forest canopy. Add a caption underneath describing the scene like a newspaper photo.



Extension challenge: Write your own short headline for this story and add one more paragraph to the report explaining what Kit the fox finds when he investigates the glittery dust.