

Mastering Paragraphs: Building Your Story with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To structure a narrative using organised paragraphs to group related ideas, actions, and descriptions.

Follow these prompts to help Max the Monkey tell his story of a jungle treasure hunt. Remember, a new paragraph is needed when you change the time, the place, the character focus, or the topic.

Max the Monkey swung gracefully from the ancient mahogany tree, his eyes scanning the dense, emerald canopy for the hidden golden compass.

Word bank: Furthermore · In the meantime · Suddenly · Consequently · On the other hand · Without warning · As a result · Meanwhile · Subsequently · In addition

1. Setting the Scene: Describe the atmosphere of the jungle. How does the environment look or feel? Start your paragraph with: 'The jungle was alive with...' (2 marks)

2. Introducing the Problem: Explain what Max discovered that made him realise the treasure was well-hidden. Start your paragraph with: 'Without warning, Max noticed...' (2 marks)

3. Action and Reaction: Describe Max's attempt to solve the puzzle of the compass. Use a connective from the word bank. Start with: 'Subsequently, he decided to...' (2 marks)

4. The Resolution: Explain how Max felt once he solved the puzzle. Start your paragraph with: 'Consequently, a feeling of triumph washed over him because...' (2 marks)

5. Justify your answer: Explain why it is important for a writer to start a new paragraph when the scene shifts from the tree canopy to the forest floor. (3 marks)

6. Compare and contrast: How does using short, punchy sentences in a paragraph differ from using longer, complex sentences? What effect does each have on the reader? (3 marks)

Extension challenge: What might happen if the story had no paragraphs at all? Write a short reflection on how the reader's experience would change and why logical grouping is essential for clear communication. If you were to add a new character—perhaps a clever parrot named Rosa—at what point in the story would you introduce her, and why would you start a new paragraph for her arrival?