

Unlocking the Narrative: A Reading Comprehension Frame with Nova the Owl

Learning objective: To develop sophisticated comprehension skills by identifying evidence, explaining character motivations, and analysing how language impacts the reader.

Read the opening passage carefully. Use the prompts below to structure your analysis. Remember to support your ideas with specific evidence from the text and use rich, descriptive vocabulary.

Nova adjusted her spectacles and peered into the ancient, dusty tome, where the ink seemed to shimmer like moonlight caught in a spider's web.

Word bank: furthermore · conversely · consequently · the author suggests · this implies that · in contrast · character motivation · evocative imagery · the atmosphere shifts

1. Identify the atmosphere created in the opening sentence. How does the author use descriptive vocabulary to make the library feel magical? (2 marks)

2. Explain why Nova might be described as 'curious'. What clues in the text suggest her attitude towards learning? (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast how Nova feels about the book compared to a character who might find reading difficult. Justify your answer. (3 marks)

4. What might happen if the ink stopped shimmering? Discuss the potential impact on the mystery of the story. (3 marks)

5. If the author changed the word 'shimmer' to 'glow', how would that alter your perception of the book? (2 marks)

6. Predict what Nova might discover on the next page. Use evidence from the text to support your imaginative theory. (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph (50–80 words) describing a new, enchanted object that Nova discovers in the library. Use at least three ambitious adjectives and a subordinate clause to enhance your description.