

Narrative Structures: The Journey of the Lost Map

Learning objective: To identify and analyse how narrative structure, including the build-up and resolution, shapes a story.

Read the story passage below carefully. Think about how the character's feelings change throughout the journey. Answer the questions in full sentences, using evidence from the text to support your ideas.

Finn the dolphin glided through the azure currents of the Coral Bay, his eyes scanning the seabed. He had discovered a weathered, waterproof scroll tucked inside a giant clam shell. It was an ancient map, marked with a shimmering golden 'X' near the Whispering Reef. Finn felt a flutter of anticipation. He knew the reef was a place of swirling tides and hidden caves. As he approached, the water grew darker and the temperature dropped. His heart thumped against his ribs—a moment of pure trepidation. Just as he was about to turn back, he noticed a rhythmic light pulsing from a cavern entrance. He swam inside and found not gold, but a collection of historical stone carvings left by the Great Sea Explorers. Finn realised this was a library of the ocean's history. He carefully mapped the location, feeling a sense of immense pride. He had found the greatest treasure of all: knowledge.

Word bank: anticipation · trepidation · resolution · sequence · climax · atmosphere · determined

1. Identify the turning point (climax) in Finn's journey. Explain why this is the most significant moment in the story. (2 marks)

2. How does the author create a shift in the story's atmosphere as Finn approaches the Whispering Reef? (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast Finn's initial expectation of what he would find with the reality of his discovery. (2 marks)

4. Justify why Finn might consider the stone carvings to be more valuable than gold. (2 marks)

5. What might happen if Finn decided to turn back when he felt trepidation? How would this change the resolution of the story? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw the interior of the Whispering Reef cavern. Include details of the stone carvings and the light Finn discovered.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph explaining how you would rewrite the ending of this story if it were a mystery instead of a discovery. Use at least three words from the word bank.