

Pip's Magnificent Word Garden

Learning objective: To enhance vocabulary by selecting precise adjectives and verbs to improve descriptive writing.

Pip the bookworm caterpillar is growing a garden of words! To help her garden flourish, replace the 'weak' verbs and adjectives in the sentences below with more ambitious, descriptive words from the Word Bank. You must justify why your chosen word creates a more vivid image for the reader.

Word bank: dazzling · sprinted · ancient · giggled · colossal · whispered · scurried · vibrant · plummeted · shimmering

1. Original: The big tree stood in the garden. Replace 'big' and 'stood' with better words. Explain why your choices make the sentence more interesting. (2 marks)

2. Original: The bright flower looked nice in the sun. Replace 'bright' and 'nice' with words from the bank. Justify your selection: How does your new word change the reader's mood? (2 marks)

3. Original: The small mouse ran across the grass. Replace 'small' and 'ran' with more precise vocabulary. Compare the impact of 'scurried' versus 'sprinted' in this context. (2 marks)

4. Original: The water fell into the pond. Choose an ambitious verb to replace 'fell'. What might happen if you used the word 'plummeted' instead of 'trickled'? (2 marks)

5. Original: The wind said something to the leaves. Replace 'said' with a more descriptive verb. Explain why 'whispered' is more effective than 'talked' for describing the wind. (2 marks)

6. Identify a pair of words from the bank that are synonyms. Justify why an author might choose one over the other when describing a sunset. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw Pip's word garden. In your drawing, include one 'colossal' plant and one 'dazzling' insect, labelling them with the adjectives you have chosen from the word bank.



*Extension challenge: Compose a short paragraph (4-6 sentences) describing a magical forest scene. You must use at least five words from the Word Bank and ensure your verbs are as descriptive as possible.
Challenge: Include one 'show, don't tell' sentence that describes an emotion without naming it.*