

Year 4 English Assessment: The Power of Precise Vocabulary

Learning objective: To demonstrate an understanding of synonyms, antonyms, word classes, and the impact of adventurous vocabulary in descriptive writing.

Read each question carefully. Use the word bank provided for sections where indicated. Ensure your answers are written in clear, punctuated sentences.

Pip the caterpillar crawled across the giant leaf. He looked at the bright forest floor and felt happy. He saw a big stone and a thin twig. Suddenly, the wind blew hard and the leaf moved.

Word bank: enormous · furious · shimmering · ancient · fragile · cautious · vibrant · sturdy

1. Identify two adjectives from the word bank that could replace the word 'big' in the passage to make the description more precise. Explain why one is a better choice depending on the context. (2 marks)

2. Find a synonym for the word 'happy' that shows a higher level of excitement. Use it in a sentence about Max the monkey solving a maths puzzle. (2 marks)

3. Look at the phrase 'the wind blew hard'. Rewrite this sentence using an adverb to describe the action more vividly. (2 marks)

4. Identify the word class of 'shimmering' and 'fragile'. Write a sentence using both words to describe an object Nova the owl might find during her night-time explorations. (3 marks)

5. Compare and contrast the meanings of 'cautious' and 'furious'. How do these words change the tone of a story if used to describe a character's reaction to a challenge? (4 marks)

6. Justify why an author might choose to use the word 'ancient' instead of 'old' when describing a tree in a historical story written by Ellie the elephant. (4 marks)

7. Extended Writing: Rewrite the provided passage to make it more descriptive and engaging. You must include at least three adjectives from the word bank and at least one fronted adverbial to describe how the leaf moved. (5 marks for vocabulary choice and sentence structure). (8 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene featuring Nova the owl observing a 'vibrant' and 'shimmering' object in the forest. Label the object using two ambitious adjectives.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Challenge: If you were to replace every adjective in the original passage with an antonym, how would the mood of the story change? Write a short paragraph explaining the shift in atmosphere and justify your reasoning.