

Pip's Magnificent Word Collection

Learning objective: To develop vocabulary by exploring synonyms, word choice, and contextual meaning.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions below. Think about how word choices change the tone of a story.

Pip the caterpillar spends every morning in the sun-dappled library of the Great Oak. While other insects busy themselves gathering nectar, Pip is on a quest to gather something far more precious: words. Pip believes that words are like shimmering jewels; each one has a specific weight and sparkle. When Pip finds a new word, like 'glistening' or 'vibrant', he carefully tucks it into his tiny satchel. He loves to savour the way a word feels on his tongue before he adds it to his collection. Yesterday, Pip discovered the word 'magnificent'. He decided it was the perfect term to describe the sunset he watched from his favourite leaf. Pip does not just collect words for their definitions; he collects them for the emotions they carry. He knows that choosing the right word can turn a dull sentence into a lively adventure. Whether he is describing a gentle breeze or a bustling forest, Pip ensures his language is as colourful and precise as the wings of a butterfly. For Pip, a well-chosen word is the most powerful tool in the entire forest.

Word bank: magnificent · savour · shimmering · vibrant · curiosity

1. Identify two specific adjectives Pip uses to describe the words he finds in the library. (2 marks)

2. According to the text, what does Pip do with a new word before adding it to his collection? (2 marks)

3. Explain why the author describes words as 'jewels'. What does this tell us about how Pip feels about language? (3 marks)

4. Compare and contrast how Pip spends his time compared to other insects in the forest. Why might he choose to do this? (3 marks)

5. Do you agree that 'a well-chosen word is the most powerful tool'? Justify your answer with an example. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw Pip the caterpillar sitting on a leaf, surrounded by floating, glowing words like 'magnificent', 'shimmering', and 'vibrant'.



Extension challenge: Choose three 'dull' adjectives (e.g., big, sad, happy) and rewrite them using three more 'magnificent' synonyms for each. Then, write a short paragraph describing a stormy day using at least five sophisticated, descriptive adjectives.