

Nova's Magnificent Word Collector: Exploring Vocabulary

Learning objective: To improve writing quality by selecting ambitious vocabulary, understanding shades of meaning, and using synonyms to enhance descriptive writing.

Join Nova the owl on a journey to find the most 'brilliant' words. Use this template to replace 'boring' words with more sophisticated, descriptive alternatives. Think about how specific adjectives can change the mood of a sentence and help the reader visualise the scene more clearly.

Word bank: Magnificent · Exquisite · Trivial · Tremendous · Luminous · Melancholy · Vigorous · Fragile · Ancient · Radiant

1. Identify a 'boring' adjective (e.g., 'big' or 'nice') and explain why it lacks impact in a story. Suggest two more precise synonyms that Nova might choose instead. (2 marks)

2. Choose a word from the word bank. Write a sentence describing a forest scene at night using your chosen word. Why does this word help the reader picture the scene better than a simpler alternative? (3 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the words 'fragile' and 'tremendous'. In what context would you use each one? Justify your choices with examples. (3 marks)

4. What might happen to the reader's understanding of a character if an author described them as 'melancholy' instead of 'sad'? Explain the effect of this vocabulary choice. (2 marks)

5. Nova has found a 'luminous' star. Create an alternative sentence describing the same star using a different, equally ambitious adjective. Explain why your new word fits the setting. (3 marks)

6. Reflect on your own writing. Pick a paragraph you have written recently and identify three words you could upgrade to make your writing more 'magnificent'. List them and their replacements. (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Write a short, three-sentence story about an adventure in the clouds. Your challenge is to use at least four words from the word bank and ensure every adjective you use is 'Tier 2' or 'Tier 3' vocabulary. After writing, underline your most ambitious word and explain why it is the perfect choice for your story.