

Expanding Horizons: Precision and Flair in Vocabulary

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

Read the passage about Max the monkey's woodland adventure. Identify the underlined words and use the word bank to select more vivid synonyms. Complete the questions below, ensuring you justify your word choices.

Max the monkey was very fast as he climbed through the trees. He reached the top (the roof of the forest) and looked at the bright flowers. He found a small stone that was very pretty. Suddenly, he slipped and fell down to the ground. It was a big challenge to get back up, but Max remained cheerful.

Word bank: agile · vibrant · canopy · scurried · tumbled · exquisite · formidable · dazzling

1. Identify the word in the passage that describes the top layer of the forest. Replace it with a more precise noun from the word bank and explain why this improves the imagery. (2 marks)

2. Max is described as 'very fast'. Replace this phrase with an adjective from the word bank. How does this change the reader's perception of Max's movement? (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the verbs 'fell' and 'tumbled'. In what context would 'tumbled' be a more effective choice for Max's movement? (2 marks)

4. The passage describes a challenge as 'big'. Justify why 'formidable' is a more sophisticated choice for a Year 4 writer. (2 marks)

5. What might happen if the author replaced all adjectives with 'nice' or 'good'? Explain the impact on the reader. (2 marks)

6. Rewrite the final sentence of the passage using at least one synonym from the word bank to make Max's experience sound more adventurous. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene of Max the monkey in the 'vibrant' forest canopy. Ensure your drawing includes at least three specific details mentioned in your new, improved version of the story.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph (50-70 words) describing a secret cave discovered by Kit the fox. You must use at least four words from the word bank and include one complex sentence starting with a subordinate clause.