

Year 5 English Assessment: The Art of the Book Review

Learning objective: To evaluate a text, form a personal opinion, and justify viewpoints using evidence and sophisticated vocabulary.

Read the provided text carefully and answer the following questions. Ensure your writing is clear, punctuated accurately, and uses persuasive language where appropriate.

Pip the caterpillar sat upon a curled leaf, sighing as he closed the final page of 'The Whispering Woods'. The story followed a young squirrel searching for the Golden Acorn. Pip loved how the author, Zara the zebra, used vibrant descriptions of the forest floor, though he felt the middle chapters dragged slightly. He wondered if the ending could have been more dramatic, yet he couldn't deny that the squirrel's bravery made him feel truly inspired. He decided to write a review to encourage his friends to read it, despite his minor reservations.

Word bank: captivating · climax · characterisation · evocative · perspective · justification · pacing · narrative · flawless

1. Identify one strength of 'The Whispering Woods' mentioned in the text. Provide a quotation to support your answer. (2 marks)

2. Pip mentions that the middle chapters 'dragged'. What does this imply about the pacing of the book? (2 marks)

3. Explain why Pip felt the ending could have been more dramatic. Use evidence from the passage to justify your reasoning. (3 marks)

4. Compare and contrast Pip's opinion of the setting with his opinion of the plot's structure. (4 marks)

5. If you were the author, Zara, how might you change the ending to satisfy a reader like Pip? Justify your choice. (4 marks)

6. Write a short paragraph (50–70 words) reviewing a book you have recently read. You must include a persuasive recommendation and use at least two adjectives from the word bank. (5 marks)

7. What might happen to a reader's engagement if an author fails to balance 'vibrant descriptions' with a fast-paced narrative? Explain your thinking. (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a book cover for 'The Whispering Woods'. Include a scene that reflects the 'vibrant descriptions' Pip enjoyed, and add a star-rating system (e.g., 4 out of 5 stars) at the bottom.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Extension: Imagine you are a literary critic. Write a persuasive letter to the author, Zara, explaining why 'The Whispering Woods' should be adapted into a stage play. Focus on how the 'evocative' setting would look on stage.