

Year 4 English Assessment: The Art of Character Description

Learning objective: To demonstrate the ability to use expanded noun phrases, adjectives, and powerful verbs to describe characters effectively.

Read the passage below carefully. Use your knowledge of vocabulary and grammar to answer the questions that follow. Write in full sentences where required.

Max the monkey sat on the highest branch of the ancient oak tree. His fur was the colour of toasted chestnuts, and his nimble fingers were constantly tapping out patterns on his wooden abacus. He wore a pair of oversized, circular spectacles that slid down his nose whenever he solved a particularly tricky maths puzzle. With a mischievous twinkle in his dark, inquisitive eyes, he scanned the forest floor, waiting for his next challenge.

Word bank: vibrant · determined · shimmering · meticulous · enormous · gentle · graceful · shrewd

1. Find and copy one expanded noun phrase from the passage used to describe Max's eyes. (1 mark)

2. What does the phrase 'mischievous twinkle' suggest about Max's personality? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (2 marks)

3. Identify two adjectives the author uses to describe Max's physical appearance. Explain why these are effective choices. (3 marks)

4. The author uses the verb 'tapping' to describe how Max uses his abacus. Suggest a synonym for 'tapping' that keeps the same meaning, and explain why you chose it. (2 marks)

5. Rewrite the following sentence to include a fronted adverbial: 'He scanned the forest floor.' (2 marks)

6. If Max were to find a rare coin worth £2.50, how would he react? Describe his reaction using at least one adjective and one adverb. (4 marks)

7. Extended Writing Task: Write a paragraph (5-6 sentences) describing a new character, Pip the caterpillar. You must include: two expanded noun phrases, one simile, and at least two adjectives from the word bank to describe Pip's appearance or personality. (11 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the monkey in his tree, ensuring you include the details mentioned in the text, such as his spectacles and his abacus.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Extension: Can you write a short poem about a character of your own invention, using alliteration in every line?