

A Day with Nova the Stargazer

Learning objective: To identify and analyse descriptive language used to build a character profile.

Read the following passage carefully. Pay close attention to how the author uses adjectives and verbs to describe Nova's appearance and personality. Answer the questions in full sentences.

Perched high within the hollow of an ancient oak, Nova the owl adjusted her silver-rimmed spectacles. Her plumage was a stunning mosaic of slate-grey and creamy white, perfectly mimicking the patterns of dappled moonlight. Unlike the other forest creatures who retreated to sleep at dusk, Nova was a creature of the night. Her large, amber eyes were perpetually wide, scanning the horizon for the faintest twinkle of a distant constellation. She was a meticulous scholar, keeping a detailed logbook where she carefully sketched the positions of stars. Whenever a younger animal stumbled into her grove, Nova would ruffle her soft feathers and offer a gentle hoot of welcome. She was not merely interested in the sky; she possessed an inquisitive spirit that sought to unravel the mysteries of the universe. With a compass tucked neatly under her wing, she was always prepared to map the heavens. Nova believed that every star had a story to tell, and she was determined to listen to them all, one shimmering night at a time.

Word bank: nocturnal · inquisitive · plumage · meticulous · constellation · observant

1. Identify two physical features of Nova mentioned in the text. (2 marks)

2. What specific object does Nova use to help her study the night sky, and where does she keep it? (2 marks)

3. Explain why the author describes Nova's eyes as 'perpetually wide'. What does this tell us about her personality? (3 marks)

4. Compare and contrast Nova's routine with that of the other forest creatures mentioned in the passage. (3 marks)

5. Do you think Nova is a good leader for the forest animals? Justify your answer using evidence from the text. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw Nova in her hollowed-out tree, surrounded by her logbooks and star charts. Ensure you include her silver-rimmed spectacles and the compass she keeps under her wing.



Extension challenge: Imagine Nova discovers a mysterious new star. Write a short, descriptive paragraph explaining what the star looks like and why Nova finds it so fascinating. Use at least three adjectives from the word bank in your writing.