

Year 4 English Assessment: The Winter Solstice Celebration

Learning objective: To assess comprehension, descriptive writing, and critical analysis skills through a festive narrative context.

Read the passage carefully and answer all questions. Ensure your writing is clear and uses appropriate Year 4 spelling and punctuation.

As the frost settled over the Silverwood Forest, Leo the Lion prepared for the annual Winter Solstice gathering. He sat by the hearth, his golden mane catching the glow of the embers, as he carefully scribbled a poem on parchment. Outside, the trees were adorned with glistening icicles that acted like natural prisms, scattering light across the snowy floor. Pip the Caterpillar was busy cataloguing the winter vocabulary, noting down words like 'crystalline' and 'hush'. The forest creatures had agreed to share a communal feast, each bringing a small token of their year to place under the Great Oak. It was a time of reflection, peace, and the warm anticipation of the coming spring.

Word bank: festive · anticipation · whimsical · atmosphere · tradition · shimmering · melancholy · communal

1. Identify two adjectives used in the text to describe the appearance of the forest in winter. (2 marks) (2 marks)

2. Why does the author use the word 'prisms' to describe the icicles? Explain the effect this has on the reader. (2 marks) (2 marks)

3. Summarise the main purpose of the Winter Solstice gathering for the animals of Silverwood Forest. (3 marks) (3 marks)

4. In the text, Leo is writing a poem. If you were a character in this forest, what 'token' would you bring to the Great Oak to represent your year, and why? (4 marks) (4 marks)

5. Compare and contrast the activities of Leo and Pip. How do their individual personalities influence their contribution to the celebration? (4 marks) (4 marks)

6. Justify why the author chose to set the story in a forest rather than a city. How does the setting change the tone of the narrative? (5 marks) (5 marks)

7. Write a short, descriptive paragraph (50-70 words) describing the 'communal feast'. Include at least two of the words from the word bank. (5 marks) (5 marks)

Draw: Draw your vision of the Great Oak at the centre of the Silverwood Forest, showing the tokens left by the animals and the shimmering light of the ice.



*Extension challenge: Imagine the forest animals decide to sell handmade winter gifts to raise money for a new community library. If Pip makes 12 bookmarks at £1.50 each and Leo sells 5 poems at £2.20 each, calculate the total amount raised. Explain why communal projects like this are important for a society.
Total: /25*