

The Festive Narrative Challenge with Max and Pip

Learning objective: To analyse the structure, characterisation, and themes of a festive narrative, demonstrating comprehension and critical thinking skills.

Read the story passage carefully. Answer the 10 questions that follow to test your knowledge of narrative structure and festive storytelling.

Max the monkey and Pip the caterpillar decided to host a winter celebration in the heart of the ancient oak forest. Max was busy measuring the exact distance between the pine branches to ensure the decorations were symmetrical, while Pip carefully selected words from his collection to write invitations that sparkled with excitement. As the sun dipped below the horizon, the forest was bathed in a soft, silvery glow. They had one small problem: the star for the top of the tree was missing. After searching under frozen leaves and behind mossy stones, they found it wedged in the hollow of an old trunk. With the star placed, the forest felt complete. They shared a warm drink, feeling the quiet magic of a night where friendship was the greatest gift of all. Answer Key: 1. A, 2. True, 3. Climax, 4. B, 5. False, 6. Metaphor, 7. C, 8. True, 9. Symmetrical, 10. D.

Word bank: anticipation · atmosphere · narrative · protagonist · climax · resolution · festive · metaphor

1. 1. Who is the protagonist of this story? A) Max only B) Pip only C) Max and Pip* D) The forest (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: Pip is responsible for measuring the distance between the pine branches. (1 mark)

3. 3. What term describes the moment the star is finally found? (One word answer) (1 mark)

4. 4. How is the atmosphere described? A) Scary B) Silvery and magical* C) Loud and busy D) Cold and dark (1 mark)

5. 5. True or False: The story ends with Max and Pip feeling frustrated. (1 mark)

6. 6. In the sentence 'the forest was bathed in a soft, silvery glow', what literary device is used to describe the light? (One word answer) (1 mark)

7. 7. Why was Max measuring the branches? A) To hide the star B) To count the leaves C) To ensure symmetry* D) To build a nest (1 mark)

8. 8. True or False: Pip used his love of words to help with the invitations. (1 mark)

9. 9. What adjective does Max use to describe how he wants the decorations to look? (One word answer) (1 mark)

10. 10. What is the theme of the story? A) Maths B) Geography C) Science D) Friendship* (1 mark)

Draw: Draw the moment Max and Pip find the star in the hollow of the old oak tree. Pay attention to the 'silvery glow' mentioned in the passage.



Extension challenge: 1. Explain why Max felt it was necessary to measure the branches. 2. Compare and contrast how Max and Pip prepared for the celebration. 3. Justify your answer: Is the star finding a climax or an resolution? 4. What might happen if they had not found the star? 5. Write a short paragraph describing the 'quiet magic' of the forest using at least three adjectives. 6. If you were adding a new character to this story, who would it be and how would they help with the preparations?