

A Winter Celebration: Assessment for Year 5 English

Learning objective: To demonstrate understanding of narrative structure, descriptive language, and character development in a festive context.

Read the passage below carefully. Answer all questions using full sentences where appropriate. Ensure your spelling, punctuation, and grammar are accurate.

The snow began to fall as Leo the lion stood at the edge of the Everwood forest. He carried a heavy bundle of holly, his mane dusted with white flakes that glittered like stardust. Tonight was the Great Winter Gathering, a tradition where all the animals of the woods shared stories and warm honey-cakes. Pip the caterpillar was already busy preparing the reading nook, hanging fairy lights from the low-hanging oak branches. Nova the owl watched from above, her keen eyes scanning the horizon for the first star of the evening. The air was filled with the sweet scent of pine and the soft melody of the wind whistling through the trees. For Leo, the joy of the season was not in the gifts, but in the warmth of his friends gathering together to share a tale.

Word bank: Atmosphere · Festive · Anticipation · Glistening · Tradition · Melody · Resonance · Enchantment

1. Identify two adjectives the author uses to describe the setting in the passage. (2 marks)

2. Why is the Great Winter Gathering considered a special event for the animals of Everwood? (3 marks)

3. What does the phrase 'glittered like stardust' tell us about the snow? Explain the effect of this simile. (3 marks)

4. Summarise Leo the lion's perspective on the festive season. Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (4 marks)

5. Find and copy one example of personification used in the passage. (2 marks)

6. The animals decide to sell handmade winter decorations to raise money for the forest library. They sell 12 handmade wreaths for £3.50 each. How much money have they raised in total? Show your working. (4 marks)

7. Write a short paragraph (5-7 sentences) describing a new character arriving at the Great Winter Gathering. Focus on using sensory language (sight, sound, smell) to build an atmosphere of excitement. (7 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene from the Everwood forest during the Great Winter Gathering, showing Leo, Pip, and Nova preparing for the evening.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Challenge: Imagine you are Pip the caterpillar. Write a diary entry explaining why you find the Winter Gathering the most important event of the year.