

Crafting Vivid Settings: The Whispering Forest

Learning objective: To use expanded noun phrases and sensory language to create a vivid setting for a story.

Read the passage below about Nova the owl's discovery in the forest. Underline the adjectives used to describe the setting, then answer the questions to build your own descriptive scene.

Nova the owl glided silently through the ancient, whispering forest. Above her, the thick canopy blocked out the moonlight, creating a tapestry of deep shadows. She landed on a mossy branch that felt like soft velvet under her talons. Below, a meandering stream hummed a gentle tune, its water sparkling like liquid silver in the faint light. The air smelled of damp pine needles and hidden secrets, and the rustling leaves seemed to tell stories of long-forgotten adventures.

Word bank: shimmering · ancient · rustling · enchanted · meandering · tangled · luminescent · canopy

1. Identify two sensory details Nova experiences in the forest. Which sense does each detail belong to (e.g., sight, smell, sound)? (2 marks)

2. Find an example of a simile in the text. Why does the author choose to compare the stream to 'liquid silver'? (2 marks)

3. Write an expanded noun phrase from the text that describes the branch Nova landed on. (1 mark)

4. Imagine you are standing in a different setting, such as a busy market or a sunny beach. Write one sentence using a powerful adjective and a verb to describe the atmosphere. (2 marks)

5. Why do you think the author described the forest as 'whispering'? What effect does this have on the reader? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw your own version of the Whispering Forest. Include at least three elements from the passage, such as the thick canopy, the sparkling stream, or the mossy branch.



Extension challenge: Choose a setting you know well, such as your school playground or your garden. Write a short paragraph (4-6 sentences) using at least two different senses to describe it so a reader can picture it clearly.