

A Plea for the Park

Learning objective: To identify persuasive features and understand how authors use language to influence a reader's opinion.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below. Use evidence from the text to support your points.

Dear Town Council, I am writing to you today because our local park is in a sorry state. Have you noticed the rusty swings and the overgrown weeds choking the flowerbeds? It is truly a tragedy that our community's only green space has been neglected for so long. Imagine a place where children can run freely without tripping over broken paving stones, and where families can enjoy a picnic on pristine grass. By investing just £500 in new equipment and hiring a gardener, you could transform this wasteland into a thriving paradise. Surely, our children deserve a safe, beautiful environment to play in? Think of the joy a vibrant park would bring to our neighbourhood. A well-maintained park is not just a luxury; it is the heart of a happy community. We must act now to restore this precious space before it is lost forever. Please, make the right choice for the future of our town. Yours sincerely, A Concerned Citizen.

Word bank: persuasive · exaggeration · argument · rhetorical · opinion · emotive

1. Identify two specific problems with the park mentioned in the passage. (2 marks)

2. How much money does the writer suggest is needed to improve the park? (1 mark)

3. Why does the writer use the phrase 'choking the flowerbeds' instead of just saying there are weeds? (2 marks)

4. What does the writer believe about the importance of a park to a community? (2 marks)

5. Do you think the writer's argument is effective? Give one reason for your opinion using evidence from the text. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'Before and After' picture of the park. On one side, show the neglected park described in the first paragraph, and on the other, show the 'thriving paradise' the writer hopes to create.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph (3-4 sentences) from the perspective of a Town Council member responding to this letter. Will you agree to the funding or suggest an alternative?