Pip’s Word Collection: Building Vivid Descriptions

Learning objective: To use a wider range of adjectives and adverbs to create interest and add detail to a descriptive paragraph.

Pip the bookworm caterpillar has found some dull sentences in his library! Help him make them more exciting by choosing interesting adjectives (describing words) and adverbs (how something is done). Use the word bank to help you build your own descriptive scene.

The old, dusty map lay on the wooden table, waiting to be discovered.

Word bank: shimmering · enormous · cautiously · vibrant · suddenly · whispered · mysterious · joyfully · dazzling · meanwhile

1. The Setting: Imagine a mysterious place. Describe what it looks like using at least two adjectives. You could start with: 'The hidden forest was...' (2 marks)

2. The Action: What is happening in your scene? Describe a movement using an adverb. You could start with: 'A small creature moved...' (2 marks)

3. The Senses: What can you hear or smell in this place? You could start with: 'I could hear the sound of...' (2 marks)

4. The Feeling: How does your character feel about being there? You could start with: 'I felt... because...' (2 marks)

5. The Conclusion: Finish your description with a sentence about what happens next. You could start with: 'Finally, I decided to...' (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Can you rewrite one of your sentences to include a fronted adverbial, such as 'Slowly and silently, the creature crept forward'?