

Adjective Adventures with Max and Zara

Learning objective: To identify, select, and use expanded noun phrases to add detail and precision to writing.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of adjectives to describe the scenes Max and Zara are exploring. Aim to use adventurous vocabulary to make your descriptions vivid.

Max the monkey and Zara the zebra are exploring a hidden garden. They have found a secret stone path, an old wooden gate, and a sparkling pond.

Word bank: magnificent · enormous · shimmering · dilapidated · tranquil · mysterious · vibrant · ancient

1. Max finds an old wooden gate. Rewrite this phrase using two more powerful adjectives from the word bank to make the description more exciting. (2 marks)

2. Zara spots a pond. Write an expanded noun phrase including a determiner, two adjectives, and the noun to describe how the water looks. (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast: Why might a writer choose the adjective 'dilapidated' instead of just using the word 'old' when describing a building? (3 marks)

4. Justify your answer: If Max were describing a 'magnificent' treasure chest, why would the choice of adjective change the reader's opinion of the object? (3 marks)

5. What might happen if you removed all the adjectives from a story? Explain why adjectives are important for the reader's imagination. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw the secret garden that Max and Zara found. Label your drawing using at least four expanded noun phrases (e.g., 'the glistening, silver stream').



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph (3-4 sentences) describing a thunderstorm. You must include at least one adjective for every noun you use. Challenge yourself to use synonyms for 'loud' and 'bright' to avoid repetition.