

A Review of The Whispering Woods

Learning objective: To identify the features of a book review and use evidence from the text to support opinions.

Read the book review written by Pip the caterpillar carefully. Then, answer the questions below, ensuring you use full sentences and refer back to the text.

I recently finished reading 'The Whispering Woods', a captivating tale about a brave squirrel named Squeak who loses his favourite silver acorn. The narrative is set in a vast, ancient forest where every tree seems to tell a secret. I was particularly impressed by the author's vivid descriptions; I could almost smell the pine needles and damp earth as I turned each page. Squeak is an excellent protagonist because he shows great resilience when he faces challenges, such as crossing the bubbling brook. While the plot moved quite slowly in the middle, the thrilling conclusion made every chapter worth the effort. It costs £6.99 in the shops, and I believe it is worth every penny. I would highly recommend this book to any reader who enjoys mysteries and adventures in nature. It reminded me that even the smallest creatures can embark on the grandest journeys. If you are looking for a story that warms your heart and makes you look at the trees with fresh eyes, this is the perfect addition to your bookshelf.

Word bank: critique · narrative · captivating · recommendation · vivid · protagonist

1. What is the name of the main character in the story, and what item has he lost? (2 marks)

2. How much does the book cost to purchase? (1 mark)

3. Why does Pip describe the forest as 'whispering'? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (2 marks)

4. What does the phrase 'the plot moved quite slowly in the middle' suggest about Pip's experience reading that section of the book? (2 marks)

5. Do you think Pip enjoyed the ending of the book? Justify your answer using the text. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene from 'The Whispering Woods' featuring Squeak the squirrel near the bubbling brook. Try to include vivid details like the ancient trees mentioned in the review.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are an author. Write a short paragraph (50-75 words) describing a new, mysterious setting for your own book. Use at least three words from the word bank and explain why this setting would be an interesting place for a protagonist to explore.