

A Review of The Whispering Forest

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

Read the book review below written by Pip the caterpillar, then answer the questions that follow in full sentences.

I have just finished reading 'The Whispering Forest' by A. J. Penwell, and I am absolutely buzzing with excitement! The story follows a young squirrel named Squeaky who discovers a map hidden inside a hollow oak tree. The map leads to a secret grove where the trees hum melodies when the wind blows. The author uses such vivid, descriptive language that I felt like I was standing right there in the forest, surrounded by golden leaves and shimmering sunlight. My favourite part was the climax, where Squeaky must solve a riddle to save the grove from a sudden storm. It was tense, clever, and very fast-paced. While some of the middle chapters felt a little slow, the ending was truly satisfying. I would highly recommend this book to any reader who enjoys magical adventures and mysteries. If you like stories about brave animals exploring the unknown, this is the perfect addition to your bookshelf. It is worth every penny of the £7.99 cover price! Overall, I give this book four out of five stars because it sparked my imagination and made me want to go on an adventure of my own.

Word bank: protagonist · climax · captivating · recommendation · imaginative · narrative

1. What is the name of the protagonist in the story Pip reviewed? (1 mark)

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

3. Based on the text, why did Pip enjoy the climax of the book? (2 marks)

4. What does the author of the review mean when they say the book 'sparked my imagination'? (2 marks)

5. Do you agree with Pip's rating of four out of five stars? Explain your reasoning using evidence from the text. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene from 'The Whispering Forest' showing Squeaky the squirrel finding the hidden map inside the hollow oak tree.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph (3-4 sentences) recommending your favourite book to a friend. Make sure to include what the story is about and why they should read it.