A Snowy Surprise at the Library

Learning objective: To retrieve information from a text and make simple inferences about characters and events.

Read the story carefully and answer the questions below in full sentences.

It was a frosty December evening at the forest library. Pip the caterpillar was busy hanging silver stars from the bookshelves, while Leo the lion hummed a gentle song. Outside, the trees were dusted with white snow that sparkled under the moonlight. The friends were preparing for their annual Christmas party. Max the monkey arrived carrying a large basket of snacks. He had spent £5.50 at the market on crunchy apples and £2.25 on a bag of honey biscuits. 'Everything is ready for our guests!' Max cheered, checking his list twice. Suddenly, there was a soft knock at the door. It was a shivering field mouse who had lost his way in the cold. Pip immediately offered the mouse a warm scarf, and Leo invited him to sit by the glowing fireplace. The mouse felt safe and happy as the library filled with the smell of cinnamon and laughter. The friends realised that the best part of Christmas was not just the decorations, but sharing their warmth and kindness with others. It was going to be a truly wonderful celebration for everyone in the woods.

Word bank: festive · generosity · celebration · twinkling · kindness

1. What did Max the monkey buy from the market and how much did he spend in total? (2 marks)

2. Where does the story take place? (1 mark)

3. Why did the field mouse knock on the library door? (2 marks)

4. How do you know that Pip and Leo are kind friends? (2 marks)

5. Do you think the friends enjoyed their Christmas party? Explain why. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Pip the caterpillar and Leo the lion welcoming the field mouse into the warm, decorated library.

Extension challenge: Write a short poem about what you like best about Christmas time. Use at least two adjectives to describe the sights and sounds.