

Adventures in the Whispering Woods with Max and Pip

Learning objective: To use expanded noun phrases and precise adjectives to create vivid, descriptive settings for a narrative.

Read the passage below. Use the word bank and your own imagination to identify and improve the descriptions. Answer the questions to show your understanding of descriptive writing.

Max the monkey swung through the branches, his eyes scanning the forest floor for a maths puzzle. Beside him, Pip the caterpillar crawled slowly along a leaf. The forest was thick and green. The sun shone through the trees in bright patches. They reached a clearing where a small, quiet pond sat. The water was very clear and you could see colourful stones at the bottom. The air felt cool and everything was still.

Word bank: shimmering · ancient · gossamer · cacophony · emerald · tranquil · enchanted · luminescent

1. Identify two simple noun phrases in the passage (e.g., 'the forest'). Rewrite them as expanded noun phrases by adding at least two adjectives to each. (2 marks)

2. The passage describes the pond as 'quiet'. Select an adjective from the word bank to replace 'quiet' and explain how this changes the atmosphere of the story. (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the way Max and Pip might experience the forest. Why would their perspectives on the setting differ? (3 marks)

4. Explain why the author uses the phrase 'bright patches' to describe the sunlight. What does this tell the reader about the density of the canopy above? (2 marks)

5. Justify your answer: If you were to add a creature that makes a 'cacophony' of noise to this setting, would it fit the mood of the passage? Why or why not? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw the 'Whispering Woods' as described in your improved version of the passage. Include Max and Pip, and make sure your drawing reflects the 'luminescent' or 'emerald' qualities you used in your writing.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph (50-80 words) describing a hidden treasure found at the bottom of the pond. Use at least three words from the word bank and ensure you include a relative clause (e.g., 'The treasure, which was covered in moss, glowed brightly.'). What might happen if Pip tries to collect the treasure?