

The Weaver of Whispers

Learning objective: To analyse the techniques used in creative writing to develop setting and atmosphere.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below. Ensure you use evidence from the text to justify your opinions.

In the heart of the Whispering Woods, Zara the zebra sat upon a moss-covered stone, her sketchbook open. She was not merely drawing; she was capturing the very soul of the forest. To Zara, the trees were not just wood and leaf, but ancient, gnarled guardians whispering secrets in a language of rustling branches. She observed how the sunlight filtered through the canopy, dappling the forest floor like a mosaic of molten gold and deep emerald shadows. She knew that to write a truly compelling story, one must first learn to observe with all senses. She recorded the rhythmic 'clack-clack' of a distant woodpecker and the earthy, damp scent of ferns waking under the morning dew. A writer, she mused, is like a weaver, pulling threads of experience from the world to stitch together a tapestry of imagination. By choosing precise vocabulary, Zara transformed a mundane walk into a journey through a mystical realm. She began to scribe, her pen dancing across the page, turning the rustle of leaves into the soft, rhythmic heartbeat of the woodland itself.

Word bank: atmosphere · vivid · metaphor · sensation · rhythm · adjective

1. Identify two specific sensory details Zara notices in the forest that help her with her writing. (2 marks)

2. What does the author mean when they describe the forest floor as a 'mosaic of molten gold and deep emerald shadows'? (2 marks)

3. Explain why the author uses the metaphor of a 'weaver' to describe the role of a writer. Use evidence from the passage to support your answer. (3 marks)

4. Compare and contrast how a scientist might view the forest compared to how Zara views it. Justify your answer. (3 marks)

5. Do you agree with Zara's belief that you must experience the world with all your senses to write a good story? Justify your opinion. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw your own 'Whimsical Woods' scene, focusing on using colour and texture to show the atmosphere, just as Zara would in her sketchbook.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are Zara. Write a short paragraph (50-80 words) describing a familiar location, such as your school playground or kitchen, using at least two metaphors and three sensory adjectives to make the scene feel magical.