

The Forest's Secret Symphony

Learning objective: To identify and explain the effect of figurative language, including similes, metaphors, and personification.

Read the passage carefully. Use the word bank to help you understand the types of figurative language used by the author. Answer the questions in full sentences.

As the sun began to tuck itself behind the velvet hills, the forest transformed. Nova the owl perched on an ancient oak, watching the woods wake up. The wind was a gentle whisper, gossiping secrets through the rustling leaves. Below, the stream danced over the pebbles like a playful child, giggling as it splashed against the mossy stones. The trees stood tall and proud, acting as silent guardians of the night. Their branches, skeletal fingers reaching for the stars, clawed softly at the darkening sky. Everything felt magical; the moonlight was a silver blanket spread across the meadow, keeping the woodland creatures warm. Max the monkey swung quietly through the canopy, his eyes wide with wonder at the natural beauty. Here, nature was not just a place, but a living storybook. Each rustle was a word, and every shadow was a new paragraph waiting to be read. As the night deepened, the forest breathed a soft, rhythmic sigh, settling down into a peaceful, starry slumber, ready for the adventures that tomorrow would surely bring.

Word bank: Simile: comparing two things using 'as' or 'like'. · Metaphor: saying one thing is another to create a vivid image. · Personification: giving human qualities to non-human things. · Imagery: words that help the reader create a picture in their mind.

1. Find two examples of personification used in the passage. (2 marks)

2. According to the text, what is the stream compared to using a simile? (1 mark)

3. Why might the author have described the branches as 'skeletal fingers'? (2 marks)

4. What does the phrase 'the moonlight was a silver blanket' tell the reader about the mood of the forest at night? (2 marks)

5. Do you think the forest is a safe place to be at night? Use evidence from the text to justify your opinion. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw the forest scene described in the passage, focusing on the 'silver blanket' of moonlight and the 'skeletal fingers' of the tree branches.

Extension challenge: Write three sentences of your own describing a stormy day. Include one simile, one metaphor, and one example of personification.