Pip’s Magnificent Lexicon

Learning objective: To develop vocabulary acquisition and inferential comprehension skills through the exploration of synonyms and figurative language.

Read the passage carefully about Pip the caterpillar’s word collection. Answer the questions below using full sentences and evidence from the text.

Pip the caterpillar spent his days meticulously curating a magnificent lexicon. While other insects were content with simple chirps and buzzes, Pip was captivated by the sheer power of language. He believed that words were like seeds; when planted with care, they blossomed into vibrant ideas. Pip lived in a grand oak tree, where he kept his collection in tiny, hand-woven silk pouches. Each pouch was labelled with care: 'Words for Joy', 'Words for Wonder', and his favourite, 'Words for Stormy Weather'.

Sometimes, Pip found the forest chatter quite monotonous, as creatures often repeated the same dull phrases. He longed to introduce them to more descriptive language. 'Why say the sky is blue,' he would ponder, 'when you could describe it as an azure expanse?' He spent his afternoons teaching Zara the zebra how to use precise adjectives to describe the patterns in the landscape. Pip knew that a well-chosen word could turn a grey day into a kaleidoscope of colour. To Pip, language was not just a tool for communication; it was an art form, waiting for the right moment to be shared with the world.

Word bank: lexicon · captivated · monotonous · vibrant · meticulous

1. Identify two specific categories Pip uses to organise his collection of words. (2 marks)

2. According to the text, what is the main reason Pip dislikes the forest chatter? (2 marks)

3. What does the author mean by the phrase, 'words were like seeds; when planted with care, they blossomed into vibrant ideas'? (3 marks)

4. Explain why Pip chooses to teach Zara the zebra about descriptive language rather than another animal. (3 marks)

5. Do you agree with Pip that a well-chosen word can change how we perceive a day? Justify your answer with an example. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw Pip the caterpillar in his oak tree home, surrounded by his labelled silk pouches and a 'kaleidoscope' of floating, colourful words.

Extension challenge: Imagine you are Pip. Create your own 'Pouch of Words' containing five sophisticated adjectives to describe a rainy day. Justify why each word is more effective than using the word 'wet'. Then, write a short paragraph explaining what might happen if the forest creatures stopped using descriptive language entirely.