

The Forest Librarian

Learning objective: To identify and analyse how an author uses vocabulary to describe a character's appearance and personality.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions below. Use full sentences where appropriate.

In the heart of the Whispering Woods, Pip the caterpillar serves as the forest's dedicated librarian. Pip is not your average garden dweller; he wears a pair of tiny, round spectacles perched precariously on his nose, which magnify his bright, inquisitive eyes. His skin is a vibrant shade of lime green, marked with neat, indigo stripes that he insists are the result of careful organisation. Pip moves with a slow, rhythmic grace, carrying a miniature satchel filled with pressed leaves and ancient scrolls. Despite his small size, he possesses an enormous intellect. He is known for his furrowed brow, which appears whenever he is deep in thought, pondering the complex structure of a new sentence or the etymology of a tricky word. Pip's sanctuary is a hollow oak tree lined with thousands of tiny, hand-written books. He is a meticulous soul who values order above all else, ensuring every syllable in his collection is perfectly placed. When he speaks, his voice is soft but clear, like the rustle of autumn leaves, inviting all the creatures of the wood to discover the magic hidden within his stories.

Word bank: spectacles · meticulous · furrowed · vibrant · knowledgeable

1. What two physical items does Pip carry or wear that suggest he is a librarian? (2 marks)

2. What colour are the stripes on Pip's body? (1 mark)

3. Why do you think Pip has a 'furrowed brow' when he is working? (2 marks)

4. What does the phrase 'meticulous soul' suggest about Pip's personality? (2 marks)

5. Do you think Pip is a good librarian for the forest? Explain your answer using evidence from the text. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Pip the caterpillar inside his hollow oak tree library. Remember to include his spectacles, his satchel, and the tiny books he has collected.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph describing a new character who might visit Pip's library. Use at least two adjectives to describe their appearance and one to describe their personality.