

Year 5 English: Christmas Storytelling and Vocabulary

Learning objective: To identify and understand key literary devices and narrative structures used in Christmas-themed storytelling.

Read the front of each flashcard and test your knowledge of narrative techniques. Use these concepts to help plan your own original festive story.

What is 'Atmosphere' in a Christmas story?

The mood or feeling created by the author, often using descriptive language to make a setting feel cosy, magical, or wintry.

Define 'Protagonist' in the context of Max the monkey's festive adventure.

The main character or hero of the story who drives the plot forward.

What is a 'Flashback'?

A narrative device where the story moves to a scene that happened at an earlier time, often used to explain a character's history.

Define 'Personification' with a winter example.

Giving human qualities to non-human things, such as 'the wind whispered secrets through the snowy trees'.

What is a 'Cliffhanger'?

A dramatic or exciting ending to a chapter or scene that leaves the reader wanting to know what happens next.

What is 'Imagery'?

Using vivid and descriptive language to create pictures in the reader's mind, often appealing to the five senses.

Define 'Antagonist'.

The character or force that opposes the protagonist, often creating the conflict within the story.

What is the 'Resolution' of a story?

The final part of the narrative where the conflict is settled and the story comes to a satisfying conclusion.

What is an 'Adverbial Phrase'?

A group of words that functions as an adverb, telling us how, when, or where something happens, e.g., 'With a joyful skip, Pip decorated the tree'.

Define 'Metaphor'.

A figure of speech that describes an object or action in a way that isn't literally true, but helps explain an idea, e.g., 'The snow was a white blanket covering the forest'.

How does 'Dialogue' help a Christmas story?

It is the conversation between characters that reveals their personalities and moves the plot along.

What is 'Setting'?

The time and place where the story takes place, which is crucial for establishing a festive theme.