

Year 5 English Assessment: Creative Writing and Descriptive Techniques

Learning objective: To demonstrate the ability to use expanded noun phrases, figurative language, and varied sentence structure to create atmosphere in descriptive writing.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions below. Ensure you use full sentences where required and check your spelling and punctuation.

Nova the owl perched silently on the silver-barked birch tree, her amber eyes scanning the forest floor. Below, the ancient woodland was a velvet blanket of shadows. The wind whispered secrets through the gnarled branches, and the moonlight danced across the mossy stones like liquid silver. Everything was still, waiting for the night to truly begin.

Word bank: atmosphere · metaphor · personification · alliteration · adverbial · expanded noun phrase

1. Identify one example of personification from the passage and explain why it is effective. (2 marks)

2. Find an example of a simile in the text. What two things are being compared? (2 marks)

3. Write an expanded noun phrase from the passage that describes a part of the forest. (2 marks)

4. Add an adverbial of time or place to the beginning of this sentence: 'The forest creatures stirred.' (2 marks)

5. Rewrite the following simple sentence to include a powerful adjective and a strong verb: 'The owl flew over the trees.' (3 marks)

6. Explain, in your own words, the atmosphere Nova experiences in the forest. Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (4 marks)

7. Imagine you are exploring a mysterious cave. Write a paragraph (5-8 sentences) describing what you see, hear, and feel. You must include at least one metaphor and one example of alliteration. (10 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene based on your paragraph in Question 7, ensuring you label at least three descriptive features you have included.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Challenge: Can you replace the verbs in your descriptive paragraph with more ambitious synonyms to make the action even clearer for the reader?