

Crafting Vivid Settings: Creative Writing Masterclass

Learning objective: To use expanded noun phrases and sensory language to describe a setting, creating an atmospheric mood for the reader.

Read each task carefully. Use the word bank to help you build descriptive sentences that bring a scene to life for your reader.

Word bank: shimmering · ancient · whispering · cacophony · dappled · labyrinth · eerie · vibrant · tranquil · ornate

1. Nova the owl is looking down at a forest from the night sky. Write an expanded noun phrase to describe the trees below, including at least one adjective and a prepositional phrase. (2 marks)

2. Max the monkey is exploring an overgrown garden. Describe the sound of the garden using a metaphor or personification. Try to include one word from the word bank. (2 marks)

3. If Pip the caterpillar were crawling across a dusty, forgotten bookshelf, which two senses should you focus on to describe the scene? Explain why these senses would make the writing more effective. (3 marks)

4. Rewrite this simple sentence to make it more descriptive and atmospheric: 'The room was old and quiet.' Use at least two pieces of descriptive vocabulary from the word bank. (2 marks)

5. Imagine you are standing in a bustling marketplace. Write one sentence that uses a 'show, don't tell' technique to describe that it is very busy without using the word 'busy'. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'secret garden' based on your descriptions above. Label three parts of your drawing with the sensory words you used (e.g., 'the whispering leaves' or 'the dappled sunlight').



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph (4-6 sentences) describing a setting that changes from 'tranquil' to 'eerie'. Focus on how the weather or the light changes to alter the mood of the scene.