

Mastering Atmospheric Descriptions with Nova

Learning objective: To use ambitious vocabulary and figurative language to create a vivid atmosphere in creative writing.

Read each question carefully. Use the word bank to enhance your writing and focus on 'showing, not telling' to build a specific mood in your paragraphs.

Nova the owl is perched high in the ancient oak tree, observing the transition from twilight to night. She notes how the forest changes as the sun dips below the horizon, transforming colours and sounds. Use your descriptive skills to help Nova document these changes.

Word bank: shimmering · cacophony · melancholy · luminous · ethereal · trepidation · vibrant · silhouette · tranquil · menacing

1. Nova sees the sunset. Write two sentences describing the changing sky. Use at least one piece of personification and one word from the word bank to make the scene feel magical. (2 marks)

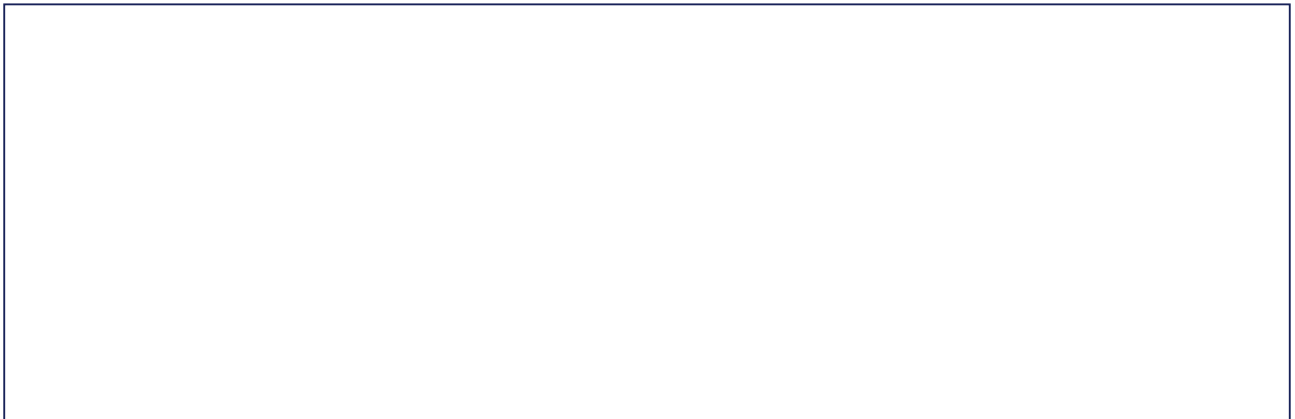
2. The forest floor has become dark and quiet. Replace the verb 'walked' in this sentence to create a more 'menacing' atmosphere: 'The fox walked through the undergrowth.' Explain why your chosen verb is more effective. (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast a 'tranquil' forest at dawn with a 'menacing' forest at midnight. Focus on how the sensory details (sounds and sights) would differ. (3 marks)

4. Justify your answer: Why is it often more effective to describe the 'silhouette' of an object rather than describing the object in full detail during a night scene? (2 marks)

5. What might happen if a character with 'trepidation' enters a clearing that is suddenly illuminated by a 'luminous' glow? Write a short, tense paragraph describing their reaction. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene from Nova's perspective looking down at the forest floor. Use light and shadow to show an 'ethereal' atmosphere, including at least one 'silhouette' of a creature hiding in the trees.



Extension challenge: Write a short story opening (no more than 200 words) set in a mysterious location. Your goal is to make the reader feel a sense of 'melancholy' without explicitly using that word. Include a metaphor to describe the wind and a piece of dialogue that reveals a character's secret.