

A Royal Discovery in the Library

Learning objective: To identify the features of a newspaper report and develop comprehension skills through retrieval and inference.

Read the newspaper report carefully, then answer the questions that follow in full sentences.

Local historian Pip the Caterpillar caused quite a stir at the Willow Creek Library yesterday morning. While organising the dusty archives in the basement, Pip discovered a hidden, leather-bound diary tucked behind a shelf of old maps. The diary, which appears to be over two hundred years old, contains detailed sketches of the town as it looked before the bridge was built. 'I was simply looking for a book on botany when I spotted the loose floorboard,' explained a jubilant Pip. Library manager Mrs Higgins described the find as 'the most significant historical discovery in our county's history.' Experts are now carefully examining the brittle pages to verify the dates. The library has decided to host a special exhibition next Saturday, where residents can view the diary for a small entry fee of £2.00. All proceeds will go towards the library's restoration fund, ensuring that future generations can learn about their local heritage. Journalists from across the region have already begun arriving to capture photographs of the remarkable find. It seems that Willow Creek has many more secrets buried within its walls, just waiting for a curious reader to find them.

Word bank: headline · byline · caption · past tense · formal language · journalism · witness · evidence

1. Where exactly did Pip find the hidden diary, and how much is the exhibition entry fee? (2 marks)

2. What are the library planning to do with the money raised from the exhibition? (2 marks)

3. Why does the author describe Pip as 'jubilant' in the second paragraph? (2 marks)

4. Based on the text, why do you think the experts need to examine the diary so carefully before it goes on display? (2 marks)

5. Do you think the discovery of the diary is important for the people of Willow Creek? Give a reason for your answer. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Pip the Caterpillar inside the dusty library basement, holding the old, leather-bound diary he discovered.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a reporter. Write a catchy headline for a newspaper article about an exciting discovery made at your school.