

Reporting the News: The Great Library Mystery

Learning objective: To identify the features of a newspaper report and write a headline and lead paragraph.

Read the newspaper excerpt below, which features Pip the bookworm, and answer the questions. Use the word bank to help you understand the key features of journalism.

LITERARY LOSS LEAVES LIBRARY LAMENTING

By Leo the Lion

Yesterday afternoon, the quiet corridors of the Oakwood Community Library were filled with unexpected excitement. Pip, the well-known local bookworm caterpillar, discovered that the rare collection of ancient poetry books had vanished from the top shelf. Witnesses reported seeing a flurry of colourful autumn leaves swirling through the open window just before the books disappeared. 'I am devastated,' Pip remarked, adjusting his spectacles. 'Those books contained the most beautiful verses I have ever read.' The local council has launched an investigation to find the missing collection. Anyone with information is urged to contact the library front desk immediately.

Word bank: Headline · Orientation · Byline · Columns · 5 Ws (Who, What, Where, When, Why) · Past tense · Formal tone

1. Identify the 'Who', 'What', and 'Where' from the newspaper report. (3 marks)

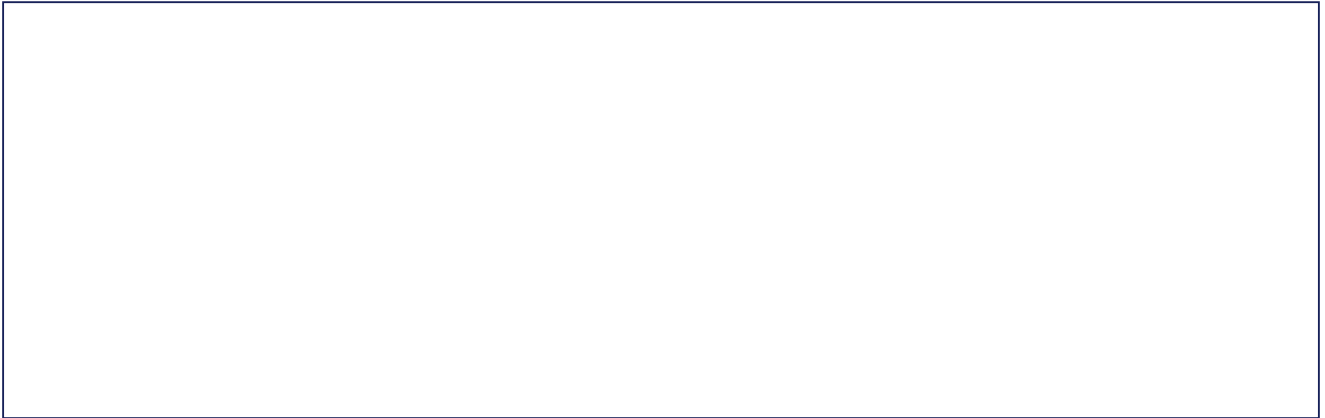
2. Why do you think the author used a quote from Pip in the report? How does it make the story feel more real? (2 marks)

3. Newspaper reports are written in the past tense. Find one sentence in the text that shows this and copy it out. (1 mark)

4. Explain why the headline 'LITERARY LOSS LEAVES LIBRARY LAMENTING' is effective. What literary device has the author used? (2 marks)

5. Write a short 'lead paragraph' (the first paragraph) for a follow-up story about the books being found safely. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Pip the bookworm standing in front of the empty library shelf, looking surprised. Add a caption that could be used for a photograph in a newspaper.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a reporter for the local town paper. Write a short interview with a witness who saw the 'flurry of colourful leaves' near the library. Use direct speech and remember to use your inverted commas correctly.