

Year 5 English Reading Comprehension: The Great Star-Map Adventure

Learning objective: To retrieve information, infer meaning, and analyse the author's use of language in a narrative text.

Read the text carefully below, then answer all questions. Ensure your answers are written in full sentences where required. Check your spelling and punctuation.

Nova the barn owl sat perched on the highest branch of the Ancient Oak, her eyes fixed upon the vast, velvet sky. Beside her, Max the monkey was busy scribbling calculations onto a piece of parchment, trying to work out the distance between the glowing stars. 'If the North Star sits at this angle,' Max muttered, scratching his head, 'then our journey across the Whispering Woods should cost us exactly £12.50 in supplies.' Nova hooted softly, pointing a wing toward a shimmering pattern in the North. 'Look, Max,' she whispered, 'the constellation of the Silver Compass is guiding us. It is not just about the maths; it is about the story the light tells us.' Max looked up, his eyes widening. For the first time, he stopped counting and simply marvelled at the luminescent trail stretching across the horizon. Together, they prepared to set off, tethered by their friendship and a shared sense of wonder.

Word bank: constellation · navigating · tethered · luminescent · horizon · perched

1. Where is Nova sitting at the beginning of the story? (1 mark)

2. Why does Max think the journey will cost £12.50? (2 marks)

3. Find and copy one adjective from the text that describes the sky. (1 mark)

4. How does Nova's perspective on the stars differ from Max's initial perspective? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (3 marks)

5. What does the word 'luminescent' mean in the context of the story? Explain how you worked this out. (3 marks)

6. Why does the author use the word 'tethered' to describe the relationship between Nova and Max in the final sentence? (3 marks)

7. Imagine you are joining Nova and Max on their adventure. Write a short paragraph (4-5 sentences) describing what you see when you look up at the sky and how you feel about the journey ahead. (5 marks)

8. If Max and Nova bought a map for £4.75 and a compass for £8.25, would they stay within their £12.50 budget? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

9. Find a word in the text that is a synonym for 'looking' or 'staring'. (1 mark)

10. What is the main theme of this passage? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw the constellation of the 'Silver Compass' as you imagine it looks in the night sky above the Ancient Oak.

Extension challenge: Total: /25