

Reporting on the Great Garden Discovery

Learning objective: To identify and use the features of a newspaper report, including headlines, the 5Ws, and formal language.

Read the newspaper report below, then answer the questions to show your understanding of journalistic writing.

LOCAL GARDEN BECOMES SCIENTIFIC WONDERLAND

By Pip the Bookworm

Yesterday afternoon, a mysterious, glowing flower was discovered in a quiet corner of Oakwood Park. The rare plant, which sparkles like a star, was found by Nova the Owl while she was searching for constellations. 'I have never seen anything like it,' said Nova. 'It seems to shimmer brighter when the moon rises.' Local botanists are currently investigating the species to understand why it glows. The park remains open, but visitors are asked to keep a polite distance to protect the delicate petals. Experts believe the flower could be a new discovery for the local area.

Word bank: Headline · Orientation · Witness · Formal · Quotation · Byline

1. Identify the 5Ws in the text: Who, What, Where, When, and Why (if known). (2 marks)

2. What is the purpose of the headline at the top of the article? (1 mark)

3. Find and copy one direct quotation from the text. Why do journalists use quotations in their reports? (2 marks)

4. Is this newspaper report written in formal or informal language? Give an example of a word or phrase that helped you decide. (2 marks)

5. If you were writing a follow-up report, what is one question you would ask Nova the Owl? (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a picture of the glowing flower that Nova found in the park. Make sure to show the detail of the shimmering petals!



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a reporter for the 'Oakwood Gazette'. Write a short headline and an opening sentence (the lead paragraph) about a new playground opening in your local area.