

Grade 4 ELA Assessment: The Power of Parenthesis

Learning objective: To identify, explain, and use parenthesis within sentences to add extra information or detail.

Read each question carefully. Ensure your punctuation is clear and your sentences are punctuated accurately using commas, brackets, or dashes.

Max the monkey sat in his favorite tree. The ancient oak tree provided perfect shade for his math puzzles. He looked down at his notebook. It was full of complex calculations. Nova the owl flew down to join him. She wanted to help solve the tricky equations.

Word bank: Parenthesis · Brackets · Dashes · Commas · Additional information · Clause

1. Define the term 'parenthesis' in your own words. Why might a writer choose to use it in their work? (2 marks)

2. Add a pair of brackets to this sentence to include extra information: 'Max the monkey sat in his favorite tree.' (2 marks)

3. Rewrite the following sentence using a pair of commas for parenthesis: 'The ancient oak tree provided perfect shade for his math puzzles.' (3 marks)

4. Insert a pair of dashes into this sentence to add extra detail: 'He looked down at his notebook which was full of complex calculations.' (3 marks)

5. Explain the difference in tone between using brackets and using dashes for parenthesis. (5 marks)

6. Write a short paragraph (3-4 sentences) about Nova the owl. You must include at least one example of parenthesis using brackets, one using commas, and one using dashes. (5 marks)

7. Identify which punctuation mark is used in this sentence: 'Pip, the hungry caterpillar, ate a leaf.' (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene featuring Max the monkey and Nova the owl studying in their tree. Label one item in your drawing using a sentence that includes parenthesis.



Extension challenge: Challenge: Write a persuasive sentence about why reading is important, using parenthesis to include a statistic or a quote from Pip the bookworm. Total: /25