

An Afternoon at the Library with Pip

Learning objective: To understand how to use brackets, dashes, and commas for parenthesis to add extra information to sentences.

Read the passage below carefully. Pay close attention to the punctuation marks used to add extra detail to the sentences. Answer the questions that follow in full sentences.

Pip, a tiny caterpillar with a passion for literature, spent his Saturday at the village library. The library—an ancient building made of oak and stone—was his favorite place to visit. Pip climbed onto a wooden stool (which was quite a challenge for his short legs) to reach the top shelf. He spotted a dusty book titled 'The Great Forest Adventure'. Pip's best friend, a clever owl named Nova, joined him shortly after. Nova, who always brought her own magnifying glass, helped him read the small print. They spent hours lost in stories. The librarian, a kind badger named Mr. Higgins, brought them some tea and cookies. 'Reading is the best hobby,' Pip remarked, adjusting his glasses. He felt truly happy. Even though the day was coming to an end, Pip felt inspired to write his own poem. He scribbled ideas onto a scrap of paper, making sure to use clear punctuation, while Nova watched the stars appear through the library window. It was, without a doubt, the perfect way to spend a weekend afternoon.

Word bank: parenthesis · bracket · dash · comma · information · punctuation · clause

1. Identify two pieces of information about the library that are contained within punctuation marks (brackets, dashes, or commas). (2 marks)

2. What is the name of the librarian, and what species of animal is he? (2 marks)

3. Why do you think Pip found it difficult to reach the top shelf of the library? (2 marks)

4. What does the author mean when they say Nova 'always brought her own magnifying glass'? (2 marks)

5. Do you think the author succeeds in making the library sound like a welcoming place? Explain your answer using evidence from the text. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw Pip the caterpillar and Nova the owl sitting together in the library. Include a stack of books and a detail that shows they are friends.



Extension challenge: Write three sentences of your own about a hobby you enjoy. In each sentence, include a piece of extra information using either brackets, a pair of commas, or a pair of dashes.