

Mastering the Meaning: A Reading Comprehension Scaffold

Learning objective: To analyze, interpret, and evaluate a text using evidence-based reasoning and higher-order thinking skills.

Read the provided passage carefully. Use the following prompts to structure your response. For each question, ensure you provide evidence from the text to justify your opinions. Use the word bank to help develop your vocabulary.

As the sun began to dip below the horizon, painting the sky in hues of violet and burnt orange, Nova the owl adjusted her spectacles and peered down at the ancient, weathered map spread across the forest floor.

Word bank: furthermore · consequently · in contrast · this implies that · subsequently · the author suggests · from the perspective of · nevertheless · evidentially

1. Identify the setting and atmosphere: Based on the opening sentence, how does the author create a specific mood? Use adjectives to describe the imagery... (2 marks)

2. Character Analysis: Explain why Nova might be using an 'ancient, weathered' map rather than a modern one. What does this tell us about her character? (3 marks)

3. Inference: What might happen if Nova discovers a discrepancy between the ancient map and the landscape she currently observes? Justify your prediction... (3 marks)

4. Compare and contrast: How would the tone of this passage change if the setting were shifted from a quiet forest at twilight to a bustling, modern city center? (3 marks)

5. Author's Intent: Why has the author chosen to describe the sky as 'burnt orange'? How does this specific word choice influence the reader's experience? (2 marks)

6. Critical Evaluation: Does the passage effectively prepare the reader for an adventure? Explain your reasoning using evidence from the text. (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Write a three-paragraph continuation of the story. In your writing, include a moment of tension where Nova must use her 'brilliant science questions' to solve a problem presented by the map. Aim to use at least four words from the word bank.