

Grade 3 ELA Assessment: The Architecture of Storytelling

Learning objective: To demonstrate understanding of narrative structure, character development, and descriptive language techniques.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions below. Ensure your answers are written in full sentences where requested. Check your spelling and punctuation carefully.

Max the monkey sat atop the ancient oak tree, his brow furrowed in concentration. Below him, the forest floor was a tapestry of golden leaves, crisp and brittle. He held a weathered map, its edges frayed like a worn-out rug. Somewhere beneath the roots of the Great Willow, a treasure was hidden—not of gold or jewels, but of ancient, forgotten riddles. The wind whispered secrets through the branches, urging Max to begin his quest. He adjusted his backpack, took a deep breath, and leapt into the unknown. The adventure had finally begun.

Word bank: protagonist · climax · adverbial · alliteration · suspense · personification · resolution

1. Identify the protagonist of the story and provide one piece of evidence from the text that describes their personality. (2 marks)

2. Find and copy an example of a simile from the passage. Explain why the author chose to use this comparison. (2 marks)

3. The author uses personification when describing the wind. Write down the phrase and explain how this adds atmosphere to the story. (2 marks)

4. Explain why Max is searching for the treasure. How does the author suggest that this treasure is different from typical pirate gold? (3 marks)

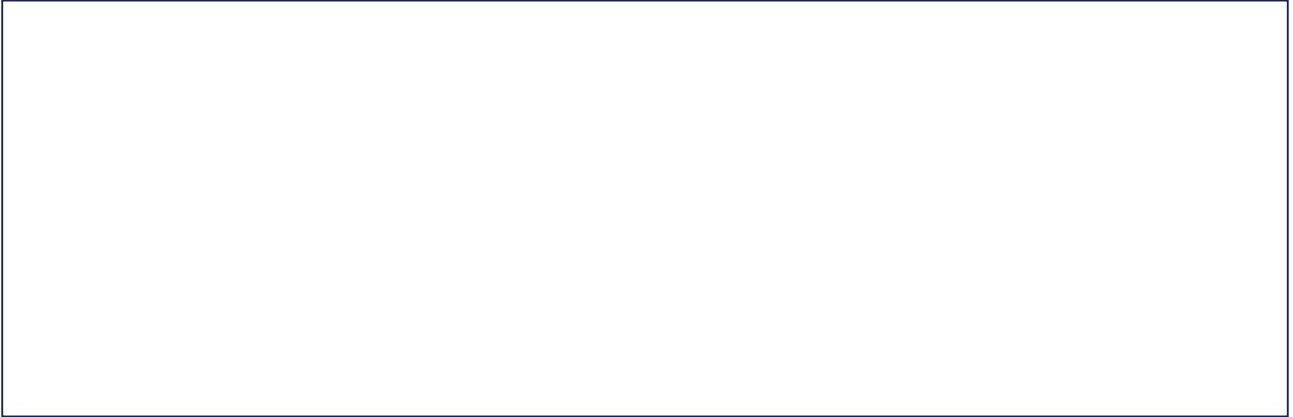
5. Imagine this story continues. Using a fronted adverbial, write two sentences describing what Max sees when he reaches the Great Willow. (3 marks)

6. Compare and contrast the setting of the 'ancient oak tree' with the potential setting of the 'Great Willow'. Justify your answer using descriptive vocabulary. (4 marks)

7. Writing Task: Write a short paragraph (approx. 60 words) describing the 'forgotten riddles'. Use at least one example of alliteration and ensure you build a sense of mystery or suspense. (5 marks)

8. What might happen if the map Max is holding turns out to be inaccurate? Explain the impact this would have on the narrative structure. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a detailed map of Max's forest, including the ancient oak tree, the Great Willow, and one hidden obstacle he might encounter on his path.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Challenge: Rewrite the opening paragraph of the story from the perspective of the wind, using sophisticated vocabulary to describe the forest below.