

The Great Storytelling Challenge with Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: To identify and analyze features of narrative structure, character development, and descriptive language in stories.

Read the short story excerpt below. Use your knowledge of narrative structure and literary devices to answer the following questions. Remember to use your best handwriting!

Ellie the Elephant stood at the edge of the Whispering Woods. The ancient trees swayed, their leaves shimmering like silver coins in the moonlight. 'I must find the lost library of legends,' she whispered, her trunk twitching with excitement. Suddenly, a mysterious shadow darted across the mossy path. Ellie took a deep breath and stepped forward into the unknown. The adventure had finally begun.

Word bank: Protagonist · Adjective · Adverb · Dialogue · Plot · Setting · Climax

1. 1. Who is the protagonist of the story? (A) The silver coins (B) The Whispering Woods (C) Ellie the Elephant* (D) The shadow (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: The setting of this story is a bustling city center. (1 mark)

3. 3. Identify one adjective used in the passage to describe the trees. (1 mark)

4. 4. What is the technical term for the conversation Ellie has with herself? (A) Monologue (B) Dialogue* (C) Description (D) Fact (1 mark)

5. 5. Which word in the passage is an adverb? (A) Whispering (B) Suddenly* (C) Elephant (D) Path (1 mark)

6. 6. '...their leaves shimmering like silver coins...' What type of figurative language is this? (A) Simile* (B) Metaphor (C) Personification (D) Onomatopoeia (1 mark)

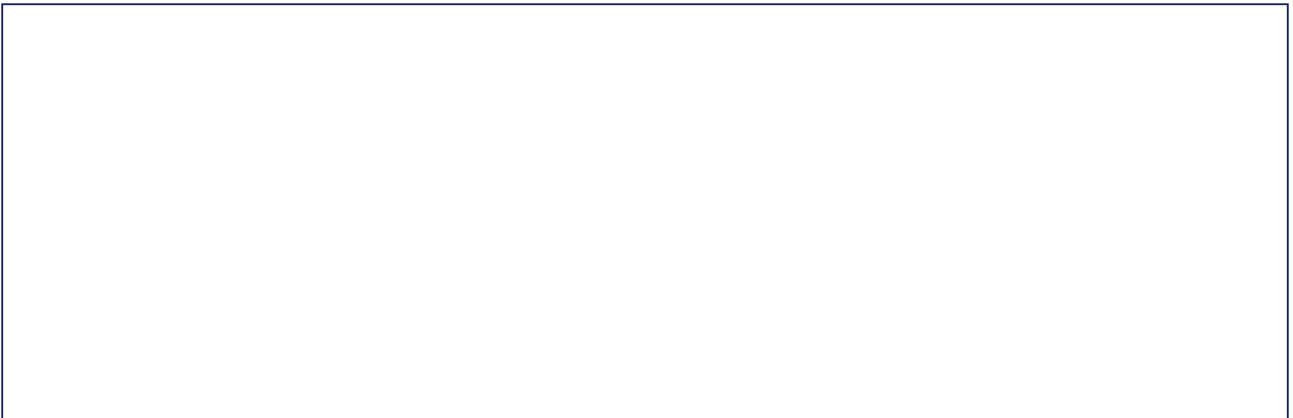
7. 7. What is the 'plot' of a story? (1 mark)

8. 8. True or False: The 'climax' is usually found at the very beginning of a story. (1 mark)

9. 9. In the phrase 'the ancient trees swayed', what does the word 'ancient' tell us about the setting? (1 mark)

10. 10. Which word best describes Ellie's mood? (A) Bored (B) Terrified (C) Enthusiastic* (D) Sleepy (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a scene featuring Ellie the Elephant inside the mysterious 'Library of Legends'. Include at least three books with unusual titles on the shelves.



Extension challenge: 1. Explain why the author chose to describe the trees as 'shimmering like silver coins' instead of just saying they were shiny. 2. Compare and contrast the mood of this passage with a story set in a bright, sunny meadow. 3. Justify your answer: What might happen if Ellie decided to turn back instead of walking forward? 4. Write a short paragraph (4-6 sentences) describing what Ellie finds inside the library. 5. If you were the author, how would you change the setting to make the story feel more dangerous? 6. Analyze how the author builds tension in the final two sentences.