

Leo's Roaring Speech

Learning objective: To identify and analyse the features of a persuasive speech.

Read the passage carefully, then answer the questions that follow in full sentences.

Leo the lion stood atop the Great Rock, his golden mane catching the morning sun. Today was the annual Forest Gathering, and it was his turn to deliver the opening speech. He wanted to convince the animals that they must work together to clear the riverbank of debris. Leo began with a warm greeting, looking directly at his friends. 'Friends, is it not our duty to protect our home?' he asked, using a rhetorical question to grab their attention. He spoke with a clear, steady voice, using emotive language to describe how the blocked river made it hard for the younger animals to find fresh water. He used the 'rule of three' to make his point memorable: 'We must clear, clean, and care for our river.' He concluded with an emphatic call to action, reminding everyone that even the smallest creature makes a difference. As he finished, the forest erupted in applause. Leo felt proud, knowing his words had reached their hearts. Writing a speech is not just about what you say, but how you make your audience feel.

Word bank: persuasive · rhetorical · audience · emphatic · structure · convince

1. What specific technique does Leo use when he asks, 'Is it not our duty to protect our home?' (1 mark) (1 mark)

2. List the three actions Leo suggests the animals take to help the river. (1 mark) (1 mark)

3. Why do you think Leo looks directly at his friends while he is speaking? (2 marks) (2 marks)

4. How does Leo show that he cares about the younger animals in the forest? (2 marks) (2 marks)

5. Do you think Leo's speech was successful? Give a reason for your opinion using evidence from the text. (2 marks) (2 marks)

Draw: Draw Leo the lion standing on the Great Rock, with a speech bubble showing the 'rule of three' phrase he used in his speech.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph (3-4 sentences) explaining what topic you would choose if you had to give a speech to your class, and name one rhetorical question you would include.