

The Weaver of Adjectives

Learning objective: To identify, evaluate, and utilise expanded noun phrases and sophisticated adjectives to enhance descriptive writing.

Read the passage carefully. Pay close attention to how the author uses adjectives to paint a picture in the reader's mind. Answer the questions in full sentences, using evidence from the text to support your points.

Zara the zebra stood before her latest masterpiece, a canvas that captured the twilight hour in the savannah. She carefully selected her brush, searching for the perfect word to describe the sky. Was it merely blue? No, that was too plain. Zara preferred words that danced. She chose 'cerulean' for the fading horizon and 'gilded' for the sunlight clinging to the acacia trees. Nearby, Pip the caterpillar watched, fascinated by how Zara's adjectives transformed a dull, grey landscape into a vibrant, living scene. To Zara, adjectives were the secret ingredients that turned a simple sentence into a delicious feast for the senses. She swirled a rich, velvety violet onto the bottom of the canvas, mirroring the cooling shadows. Each brushstroke was a deliberate choice, intended to evoke a sense of calm and wonder. As the stars began to blink like tiny, distant lanterns, Zara felt a profound sense of satisfaction. Her meticulous work proved that with the right adjectives, even the most ordinary view could become an extraordinary, breath-taking spectacle of colour and light.

Word bank: vibrant · ethereal · meticulous · shimmering · dull · vivid · ornate · profound

1. Identify two specific adjectives Zara uses to describe the light or the sky in her painting. (2 marks)

2. According to the text, what does Pip observe Zara doing, and what does he think about her process? (2 marks)

3. Explain why the author describes adjectives as 'the secret ingredients that turned a simple sentence into a delicious feast for the senses'. (3 marks)

4. What might happen to the impact of Zara's artwork if she decided to use only basic, unadorned adjectives instead of her usual vocabulary? (3 marks)

5. Do you agree with Zara that choosing the 'perfect' word is essential for a good description? Justify your answer with reference to the text. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw your own version of Zara's savannah painting at twilight. Label your artwork with at least five sophisticated adjectives you would use to describe the scene, just as Zara did.



Extension challenge: Write a paragraph describing your favourite place. Challenge yourself to replace every basic adjective (e.g., big, nice, happy) with a more descriptive, 'vivid' alternative. Then, explain why your chosen adjectives help the reader visualise the scene more effectively.