

Adjectives in the Great Library

Learning objective: To identify and understand the impact of adjectives on descriptive writing.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below. Remember to use evidence from the text to support your answers.

Pip the caterpillar spent the afternoon in the Great Library, surrounded by towering, mahogany shelves that reached toward the vaulted ceiling. He moved slowly across an ancient, leather-bound book, his tiny feet tapping against the embossed gold lettering. The air in the room felt heavy and still, smelling faintly of sweet vanilla and aged parchment. Pip adjusted his round, polished spectacles and peered at a nearby manuscript. It was a dusty, forgotten volume with delicate, frayed edges and stained pages. Suddenly, a bright, golden beam of sunlight pierced through the high, arched window, illuminating swirling specks of dancing dust. Pip felt a surge of joyful excitement; every book here was a treasure chest of hidden stories. He carefully selected a small, slender book bound in vibrant, emerald fabric. As he began to read, the silent library seemed to transform, filling with the echoes of imaginary adventures. For Pip, the world was not just a place of things, but a collection of magnificent, colourful details waiting to be discovered and cherished.

Word bank: Adjective · Noun · Descriptive · Modifying · Vivid · Atmospheric

1. Find two adjectives used to describe the shelves in the library. (2 marks)

2. What does the library smell like, according to the text? (2 marks)

3. Why might Pip feel excited when he sees the beam of sunlight in the library? (2 marks)

4. How does the author suggest that the library is very old? (2 marks)

5. Do you think the author chose the adjectives well to describe the scene? Explain why using examples from the text. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw Pip the caterpillar sitting on top of a stack of old books in a sunlit library, showing the 'vibrant emerald' book mentioned in the text.



Extension challenge: Choose three adjectives from the passage and write a new sentence of your own for each, using them to describe a different setting, such as a busy park or a stormy beach.