

Year 5 English Assessment: The Art of Character Description

Learning objective: To demonstrate the ability to construct, analyse, and refine character descriptions using expanded noun phrases, relative clauses, and precise vocabulary.

Read the character profile carefully. Answer all questions using full sentences where required. Ensure your spelling and punctuation are accurate.

Max the monkey sat atop the ancient oak tree, his brow furrowed in deep concentration. He held a weathered notebook in his nimble, ink-stained fingers. His fur, a rich shade of chestnut, ruffled in the breeze as he squinted at the complex numerical patterns etched into the bark. Beside him, Kit the fox watched silently, her piercing amber eyes tracking the movement of a dragonfly. Kit's sharp, pointed ears twitched, detecting the faint rustle of leaves, whilst her tail—a plume of burnt orange—curled neatly around her paws. They were an unlikely pair, yet their shared focus transformed the quiet forest into a bustling laboratory of logic and discovery.

Word bank: formidable · resilient · glistening · meticulous · shimmering · intricate · determined · characterisation · atmosphere

1. Identify two adjectives used in the passage to describe Max. Explain how these words help the reader understand his personality. (2 marks)

2. Find and copy a relative clause used in the passage. (1 mark)

3. In the phrase 'her tail—a plume of burnt orange—curled neatly', what is the function of the dashes? How does this addition improve the reader's mental image? (2 marks)

4. Using the passage, compare and contrast the physical appearance of Max and Kit. Justify your answer with evidence from the text. (3 marks)

5. Rewrite the sentence: 'Max sat at the tree.' to include an expanded noun phrase and a prepositional phrase, maintaining the original meaning. (2 marks)

6. What might happen to the forest if Max and Kit's 'laboratory of logic' was disturbed? Provide a short, creative prediction. (2 marks)

7. Explain why the author chose to describe the forest as a 'bustling laboratory' rather than just 'a place with trees'. What atmosphere does this create? (3 marks)

8. Creative Writing Task: Write a paragraph (approx. 80-100 words) introducing a new character, Pip the caterpillar. You must include: one relative clause, two expanded noun phrases, and one piece of dialogue that reveals Pip's passion for reading. (10 marks)

Draw: Sketch the scene described in the passage. Ensure you include specific details mentioned, such as Max's notebook, Kit's amber eyes, and the environment of the ancient oak tree.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Extension: 'Characterisation is more than just how someone looks.' Justify this statement by discussing how an author reveals a character's internal thoughts and motivations through their actions. Compare this to how a film might show the same information.