

The Guardian of the Great Archive

Learning objective: To analyse character description, identifying how an author uses vocabulary to convey personality and physical traits.

Read the passage carefully. Use the word bank to help you understand the richer vocabulary. Answer the questions in full sentences, using evidence from the text to support your ideas.

Deep within the hollow of the Ancient Oak, Ellie the elephant sat amidst mountains of parchment. She was a truly meticulous librarian, her velvet-grey trunk carefully dusting each leather-bound tome with the precision of a master artist. Balanced precariously upon her noble forehead were a pair of brass-rimmed spectacles, which she adjusted whenever she encountered a particularly faded map. Ellie's eyes, soft and intelligent, shimmered with the light of a thousand stories she had memorised over the decades. She wore a woven satchel across her shoulder, packed with ink-dipped quills and rolls of parchment, prepared for any scholarly enquiry. Unlike the frantic forest creatures who scurried about outside, Ellie moved with a slow, deliberate grace, her impeccable memory acting as a living catalogue for all the woodland's history. When she spoke, her voice was like the gentle rustle of dry leaves, warm and inviting. She was not merely a keeper of books; she was the silent guardian of the forest's wisdom, ensuring that no tale, however ancient, would ever be forgotten by the younger generations.

Word bank: meticulous · shimmering · spectacles · impeccable · scurried · tome

1. Identify two physical features of Ellie that are mentioned in the text. (2 marks)

2. Where does Ellie keep her writing tools and what does this suggest about her role? (2 marks)

3. How does the author show that Ellie is different from the other animals in the forest? (3 marks)

4. Why might the author have chosen to describe Ellie's voice as the 'gentle rustle of dry leaves'? (3 marks)

5. Justify why Ellie is a suitable character to be the 'guardian of the forest's wisdom'. Refer to the text in your answer. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw Ellie the elephant in her library inside the Ancient Oak. Include details like her brass spectacles, her woven satchel, and the towering stacks of ancient books.



Extension challenge: Imagine a new character who visits Ellie to ask a question. Write a short paragraph describing this character using at least three adjectives that reveal their personality, and explain what they are looking for in the library.