

Mastering the Craft: Character Description Quiz

Learning objective: To identify and apply techniques for creating vivid, engaging character descriptions using expanded noun phrases, relative clauses, and emotive vocabulary.

Read the short passage about our BookFlik friends below. Use your knowledge of Year 5 English techniques to answer the questions. Aim for precise vocabulary!

Nova, who is a keen observer of the night sky, perched silently on the silver-barked oak. Her feathers were like velvet ink against the moonlit clouds. Beneath her, Max the monkey scurried about, his nimble fingers clutching a satchel filled with shiny £1 coins. He was a whirlwind of energy, his eyes darting like restless fireflies.

Word bank: metaphor · adjective · relative clause · personification · expanded noun phrase · alliteration · emotive

1. 1. In the phrase 'silver-barked oak', what grammatical term describes the word 'silver-barked'? A) Adverb B) Adjective* C) Preposition D) Conjunction (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: 'Her feathers were like velvet ink' is an example of a simile. (1 mark)

3. 3. Identify the relative clause in the first sentence: 'Nova, who is a keen observer of the night sky, perched silently on the silver-barked oak.' (1 mark)

4. 4. What is the effect of using the word 'whirlwind' to describe Max? A) It shows he is slow B) It shows he is confused C) It shows he is energetic and chaotic* D) It shows he is sad (1 mark)

5. 5. Name the technique used in the phrase 'eyes darting like restless fireflies'. (1 mark)

6. 6. If Max had 5 coins worth £2 each, how much money does he have in his satchel? (Maths link!) (1 mark)

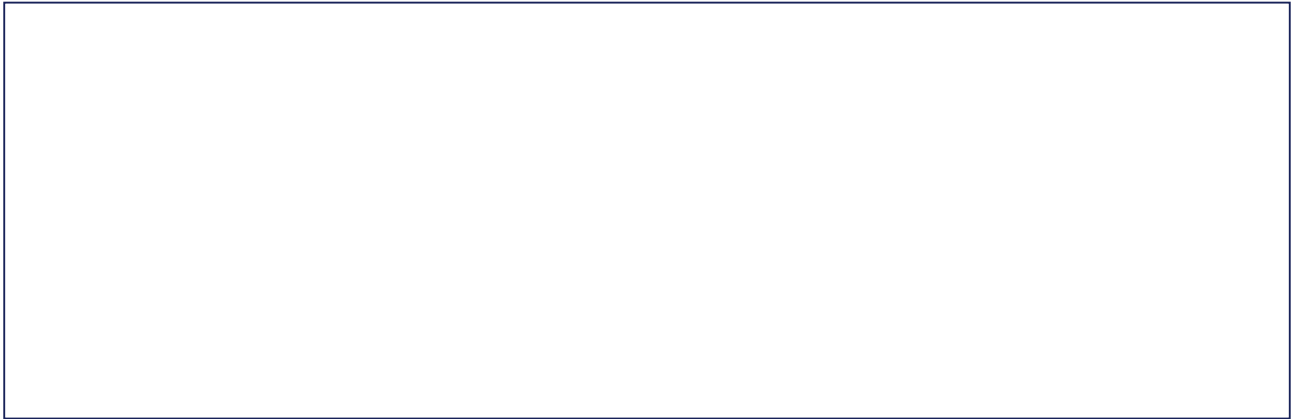
7. 7. True or False: The sentence 'He was a whirlwind of energy' is a metaphor. (1 mark)

8. 8. Suggest a more ambitious synonym for the word 'shiny' used to describe the coins. (1 mark)

9. 9. Which word from the passage helps the reader understand the speed of the monkey's movements? A) Perched B) Scurried* C) Moonlit D) Silent (1 mark)

10. 10. In the phrase 'velvet ink', what is being compared to the owl's feathers? (1 mark)

Draw: Draw Max the monkey based on the description in the passage. Ensure you include his satchel and capture his energetic, 'whirlwind' personality in his posture.



Extension challenge: Greater Depth Challenge: 1) Explain why the author chose the word 'velvet' to describe the owl's feathers; what does this imply about the sound she makes? 2) Justify why using a relative clause is more effective than writing 'Nova is a keen observer. She perched on the oak.' 3) What might happen if you replaced the metaphor 'whirlwind' with a literal description? How would the tone of the paragraph change? 4) Write a three-sentence character description of Leo the lion using one metaphor, one relative clause, and one expanded noun phrase.