

The Festive Narrative Challenge: A Christmas Story Quiz

Learning objective: To analyse the structure, themes, and literary devices within a festive-themed narrative, focusing on Year 5 reading comprehension and inference skills.

Read the short festive passage provided below and answer the ten questions that follow. Use your best vocabulary and ensure your spelling is accurate.

The snow fell in soft, silent feathers, cloaking the village of Oakhaven in a velvet white blanket. Inside the small cottage, Kit the fox sat by the hearth, his paws warmed by the embers. He was meticulously organising his collection of vintage clockwork gears, yet his mind wandered to the village square. Tomorrow was the Winter Solstice, a night when the villagers would gather to share stories of the past year. Kit pondered the importance of tradition; he believed that stories were the invisible threads that knitted a community together. Outside, the wind whistled a low, melancholy tune through the chimney, as if reminding the world that even the coldest winter night must eventually surrender to the warmth of the coming dawn.

Word bank: atmosphere · protagonist · nostalgia · metaphor · personification · festive · climax · resolution

**1. 1. Which literary device is used in the phrase 'the wind whistled a low, melancholy tune'?
A) Simile B) Personification* C) Metaphor D) Alliteration (1 mark)**

2. 2. True or False: The setting of the story is described as being a busy, modern city. (1 mark)

3. 3. What is the protagonist's name in this story? (1 mark)

4. 4. What does the metaphor 'stories were the invisible threads' suggest about the community? A) Stories are physically made of string B) Stories are unimportant C) Stories connect people together* D) Stories are secret (1 mark)

5. 5. Find and copy one adjective from the first sentence that helps create a peaceful atmosphere. (1 mark)

6. 6. Why is Kit sitting by the hearth? A) He is hungry B) He is cold* C) He is hiding D) He is cooking (1 mark)

7. 7. What does the word 'meticulously' tell us about how Kit is organising his gears? (1 mark)

8. 8. True or False: The story mentions that the village is preparing for a Summer Festival. (1 mark)

9. 9. How does the weather at the end of the passage contrast with the idea of the 'coming dawn'? (1 mark)

10. 10. In your own words, what is the main theme of this passage? A) Science B) Adventure C) Community and tradition* D) Mathematics (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a scene illustrating Kit the fox inside his cottage, ensuring you include the 'velvet white blanket' of snow outside the window and the 'clockwork gears' he is organising.



Extension challenge: 1. Explain why the author chose the word 'cloaking' to describe the snow. 2. Compare and contrast Kit's internal thoughts with the external environment. 3. Justify the author's choice to end the passage with a reference to the 'dawn'. 4. What might happen if the villagers did not gather for the Winter Solstice? 5. Write a short paragraph continuing the story, focusing on the sensory details of the village square. 6. If you were rewriting this from the perspective of the wind, how would the tone of the description change?