

A Festive Narrative Challenge with Max and Ellie

Learning objective: To compose a descriptive and atmospheric Christmas narrative using expanded noun phrases, fronted adverbials, and emotive vocabulary.

Read the following questions carefully. Use the provided word bank to elevate your vocabulary. Ensure your responses demonstrate a sophisticated grasp of Year 5 narrative techniques.

Max the monkey and Ellie the elephant are preparing for a festive gathering in the forest. As the winter solstice arrives, they must work together to create a magical atmosphere for their friends, ensuring every detail is perfect despite the biting cold.

Word bank: kaleidoscopic · ethereal · cacophony · bountiful · solstice · shimmering · melancholy · resplendent · enchanting · clandestine

1. Max is decorating the ancient oak tree. Write an expanded noun phrase to describe the tree and explain why it is the perfect centrepiece for the forest celebration. (2 marks)

2. Ellie is organising a secret gift exchange. Use a fronted adverbial to describe how Ellie moves through the snowy forest to hide the gifts. Why might she choose to be 'clandestine'? (3 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the atmosphere of the forest before the decorations are hung and after the lights are illuminated. Use at least two words from the word bank. (3 marks)

4. Justify why Max and Ellie might feel a sense of 'melancholy' even amidst the joy of the festive season. What might this suggest about the changing of the seasons? (3 marks)

5. Explain why the author might use the word 'resplendent' to describe the scene. How does this word choice change the reader's perception of the setting? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene featuring Max and Ellie setting up their forest Christmas. Include at least three of the vocabulary words from the bank in your labels for the drawing, showing how the environment has been transformed.



Extension challenge: Imagine a sudden winter storm interrupts the party. Write a paragraph describing the shift in the atmosphere from 'enchanted' to 'chaotic'. How do Max and Ellie use their unique traits to resolve the problem? Justify your narrative choices.