

Crafting a Christmas Tale with Pip and Leo

Learning objective: To use descriptive language, show-not-tell techniques, and atmospheric vocabulary to write a compelling opening for a Christmas story.

Read each task carefully. Use your knowledge of narrative structure and sensory imagery to complete the questions. Refer to the word bank for inspiration.

Pip the caterpillar is busy writing a story about a magical Christmas Eve in the forest, while Leo the lion is trying to capture the feeling of the season in a poem. They need your help to set the scene for their festive adventure.

Word bank: glistening · anticipation · frost-bitten · melodious · twilight · festive · hush · shimmering · whimsical · crescendo

1. Pip wants to describe the setting of the forest on Christmas Eve. Write two sentences using 'show-not-tell' to describe a cold, snowy night without using the words 'cold' or 'snow'. (2 marks)

2. Identify one piece of figurative language (a metaphor, simile, or personification) you could use to describe the lights on a Christmas tree. Explain why this creates a strong image for the reader. (2 marks)

3. Leo needs a powerful opening hook for his story. Write a sentence that creates a sense of mystery or anticipation for the reader. (2 marks)

4. Choose two words from the word bank and use them together in a single, complex sentence describing a festive atmosphere. (2 marks)

5. If Pip and Leo were buying decorations for their forest party, they have a budget of £20.00. If they buy 3 sets of fairy lights at £4.50 each and a star for £3.75, how much money will they have left over? Show your calculation. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene where Pip the caterpillar and Leo the lion are decorating a large pine tree in the middle of a forest. Include one 'whimsical' detail that makes the tree look magical.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph (50-80 words) describing the sound of a Christmas morning in the forest. Focus on using sensory language to describe the atmosphere after the presents have been opened.