

The Whispering Woods: Exploring Figurative Language

Learning objective: To identify and analyse the effect of figurative language, including personification, similes, and metaphors, within a narrative text.

Read the passage below carefully. Use your knowledge of figurative language to answer the questions. Ensure you provide evidence from the text to support your answers.

As the sun began to tuck itself behind the velvet hills, Nova the owl perched silently upon the ancient oak. The forest was a sea of emerald shadows, rippling in the evening breeze. Below, the stream giggled over smooth pebbles, a bubbly song that danced through the cool air. Pip the caterpillar crawled along a leaf, which felt like a rough, dusty carpet beneath his tiny feet. The moonlight was a silver lantern, guiding the nocturnal creatures through the undergrowth. Every branch reached out like a skeletal hand, shivering as the wind whispered secrets to the rustling leaves. Nova watched with golden, unblinking eyes, feeling the pulse of the woods beating in rhythm with her own heart. In this magical realm, the darkness was not a villain, but a warm blanket wrapping the earth in a peaceful, starry slumber. The world felt alive, painting a masterpiece of mystery across the landscape, waiting for the dawn to bring a brand new chapter.

Word bank: personification · simile · metaphor · alliteration · vivid · imagery

1. Identify two examples of personification used in the first paragraph. Explain what these phrases suggest about the forest. (2 marks)

2. Find a simile used to describe the leaf Pip is crawling on. Why do you think the author chose this specific comparison? (2 marks)

3. How does the author's use of the metaphor 'the moonlight was a silver lantern' change the reader's perception of the night? (2 marks)

4. Compare and contrast how the forest is described at the beginning of the passage versus the end. What mood does this create? (3 marks)

5. Justify why the author chose to describe the darkness as a 'warm blanket' rather than a 'frightening shadow'. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw the forest scene as described in the text. Include Nova the owl, the silver moonlight, and the 'velvet hills'. Use your drawing to show how you interpreted the metaphor of the forest being a 'sea of emerald shadows'.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph (50-70 words) describing a sunrise from the perspective of Pip the caterpillar. You must include at least one metaphor, one simile, and one example of personification to enhance your imagery.