

Mastering Figurative Language with Pip the Bookworm

Learning objective: To identify and analyse the use of metaphors, similes, and personification to create vivid imagery in writing.

Read the descriptive passage below about the Enchanted Library. Look closely at how Pip uses figurative language to bring the setting to life. Answer the questions below, ensuring you use technical vocabulary where appropriate.

The Enchanted Library was a sanctuary of silence, where ancient books breathed softly on their shelves. Pip the caterpillar scurried across the mahogany desk, which stood like a sturdy mountain in the centre of the room. The air tasted of dust and adventure, sweet as a ripened peach. Above, the chandelier was a crown of crystal stars, casting flickering light that danced across the spines of forgotten tales. The wind whispered secrets against the windowpane, begging to be let inside to read along with Pip.

Word bank: Metaphor · Simile · Personification · Imagery · Vivid · Comparison · Atmospheric

1. Identify the personification used in the first sentence. Explain what this suggests about the books. (2 marks)

2. Find the simile in the second sentence. Why has the author chosen to compare the desk to a 'sturdy mountain'? (2 marks)

3. The phrase 'The chandelier was a crown of crystal stars' is a metaphor. If you were to rewrite this as a simile, how would it change the sentence? (2 marks)

4. Explain why the author uses the personification of the wind in the final sentence. What mood does this create? (3 marks)

5. Compare and contrast the effect of the metaphor used for the chandelier with the simile used for the desk. Which creates a stronger image in your mind and why? (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene based on the passage, focusing on capturing the 'crown of crystal stars' and the 'sturdy mountain' desk. Add your own piece of figurative language to describe the scene in the caption below your drawing.



Extension challenge: Justify your answer: If the library was described as a 'chaotic battlefield' instead of a 'sanctuary', how would that change the reader's perception of Pip? Write a paragraph using at least one metaphor and one example of personification to describe this new, chaotic version of the library.