

The Forest of Whispering Words

Learning objective: To identify and interpret figurative language, including metaphors, similes, and personification.

Read the passage carefully. Pay close attention to how the author uses descriptive language to bring the setting to life. Answer the questions in full sentences.

Pip the caterpillar crawled onto a mossy log, his eyes wide with wonder. The forest was a living, breathing tapestry of emerald and gold. Above him, the ancient oak trees stood like silent sentinels, their gnarled branches stretching out to tickle the belly of the clouds. The wind was a mischievous spirit, darting through the leaves and whispering secrets that only the flowers could hear. Nearby, a stream danced over smooth pebbles, its voice a gentle giggle as it hurried towards the distant river. Pip felt as small as a grain of sand in this vast, green cathedral. He opened his notebook, eager to capture the scene. To Pip, the sunlight was liquid honey, dripping through the canopy to warm the forest floor. Every rustle and chirp was a note in a grand, natural symphony that had been playing for centuries. He knew that if he listened closely enough, he could read the forest like a favourite storybook, where every shadow and sunbeam told a tale of magic and mystery.

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

1. Identify two examples of personification used in the passage to describe the wind and the stream. (2 marks)

2. Find and copy the simile the author uses to describe Pip's size compared to the forest. (1 mark)

3. Why does the author describe the forest as a 'living, breathing tapestry'? What does this suggest about the environment? (2 marks)

4. What does the metaphor 'the sunlight was liquid honey' tell us about the quality and appearance of the light? (2 marks)

5. Do you think Pip is a good observer of nature? Use evidence from the text to justify your opinion. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene of the forest as described by Pip, making sure to include the 'liquid honey' sunlight and the 'sentinel' oak trees.



Extension challenge: Write three of your own sentences about a rainy day, using one simile, one metaphor, and one example of personification.