

The Stargazer's Discovery

Learning objective: To develop skills in reading between the lines to make accurate inferences about characters and settings.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions below. Remember to use evidence from the text to support your inferential answers.

Nova perched upon the highest branch of the ancient oak tree, her talons gripping the wood firmly. The night air was crisp and biting, but she barely noticed the chill. Before her, a large, brass telescope pointed towards the velvet-black sky. She adjusted the focus dial with a steady, precise movement, her large amber eyes scanning the horizon. Beside her, a leather-bound journal lay open, its pages filled with neat, cramped handwriting and sketches of swirling nebulae. Every few seconds, Nova would glance at her pocket watch, sighing softly as she tapped her beak against the metal casing. A faint glimmer appeared in the eastern sky—a rhythmic, pulsing light that did not match the steady glow of the surrounding stars. Nova's feathers ruffled with excitement. She quickly scribbled a note, her quill darting across the paper like a hummingbird. She didn't need to look at the star charts this time; she knew exactly what this meant. A slow, satisfied smile spread across her face as she leaned back to watch the celestial event unfold in the quiet darkness.

Word bank: constellation · telescope · observation · meticulous · anticipation

1. What tool does Nova use to help her view the night sky? (1 mark)

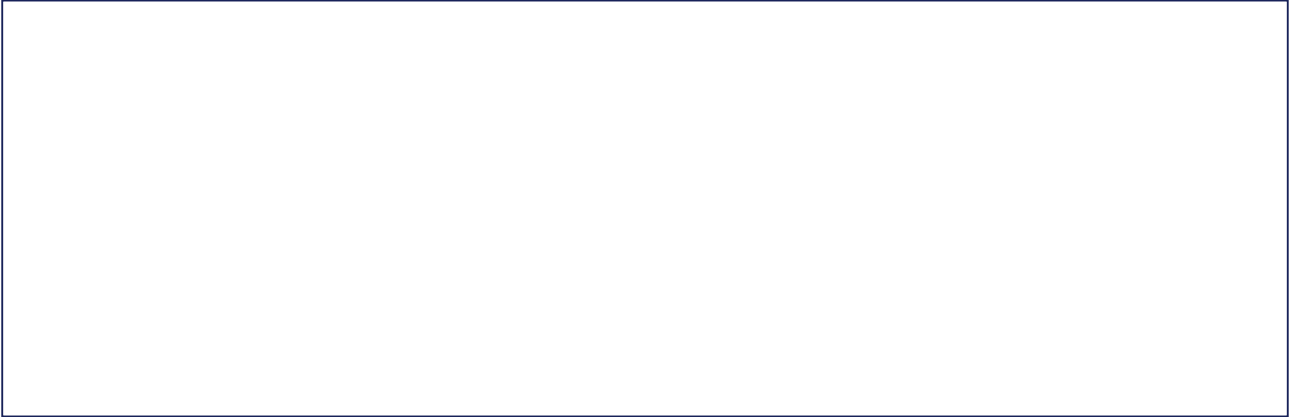
2. What is Nova doing at the end of the passage? (1 mark)

3. How does the author show that Nova is feeling impatient or anxious for something to happen? (2 marks)

4. What evidence is there to suggest that Nova is an experienced astronomer rather than a beginner? (2 marks)

5. Do you think Nova enjoys her hobby? Explain your answer using evidence from the text. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw Nova the owl sitting in the oak tree with her telescope, looking up at a mysterious, pulsing star in the night sky.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are Nova. Write a short diary entry (50 words) describing the feeling of seeing the pulsing star for the first time.