

A Letter from the Forest Floor

Learning objective: To identify the features of formal letter writing and use inference to understand the writer's purpose.

Read the letter written by Pip the caterpillar to his friend Nova the owl. Pay close attention to the structure, tone, and vocabulary used. Answer the questions that follow in full sentences.

12 Oak Leaf Lane, The Whispering Woods, WD4 9PL. 14th May 2024. Dear Nova, I trust you are enjoying the celestial wonders of the night sky. I am writing to you because I have discovered a marvellous new collection of adjectives in the old library. As you know, my passion for language grows daily, and I have recently encountered a fascinating book titled 'The History of Wings'. It occurred to me that, as an expert in flight, you might find the chapter on avian anatomy particularly insightful. Would you consider meeting me by the Great Willow this Saturday? I have carefully set aside a selection of nectar-infused biscuits for our afternoon tea. It would be a delight to discuss the intricacies of these historical accounts with you. My collection of words is expanding rapidly, but I find that sharing them with a brilliant mind like yours is the most rewarding experience of all. I look forward to your response with great anticipation. Yours sincerely, Pip.

Word bank: correspondence · sincere · salutation · informal · persuasive · vocabulary

1. What are the two items Pip mentions he has prepared or discovered in his letter? (2 marks)

2. Identify the sender's address and the date the letter was written. (2 marks)

3. Why does Pip believe Nova would be interested in the book he found? (2 marks)

4. What does the tone of the letter suggest about the relationship between Pip and Nova? (3 marks)

5. Do you think this letter is formal or informal? Justify your answer using evidence from the text. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene of the Great Willow tree where Pip and Nova are having tea. Include Pip's book of adjectives and the plate of nectar-infused biscuits.



Extension challenge: Compare and contrast this formal letter with a text message you might send to a friend. Explain why the structure and language differ so significantly. Then, write a reply from Nova's perspective, ensuring you maintain the same formal tone and include a scientific question about the wings she read about.