

Modal Verb Explorations: A Writing Scaffold with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To use modal verbs to indicate degrees of possibility and necessity in a narrative report.

Max the Monkey needs your help to write a report on his latest scientific discovery in the jungle. Use the prompts below to structure your writing. Remember to use modal verbs (might, could, should, must, will, shall, may) to show how certain you are about your findings.

Deep within the emerald canopy, I discovered a strange, glowing fruit that behaves unlike any plant I have encountered before.

Word bank: certainly · possibly · undoubtedly · might · could · must · should · shall · on the other hand · furthermore · consequently

1. The Appearance: Describe what the fruit looks like. Use a modal verb to explain what it might be made of. Start with: The fruit appears to be... (2 marks)

2. The Behaviour: Explain how the fruit reacts to movement. Use modal verbs to express the possibility of its reactions. Start with: If a creature approaches the fruit, it could... (3 marks)

3. The Scientific Necessity: Explain why researchers must study this fruit carefully. Start with: Scientists must examine this specimen because... (3 marks)

4. Justify your answer: Why do you think using modal verbs is more effective than using definite statements like 'it is' or 'it will'? Compare the two styles. (4 marks)

5. Hypothesis: What might happen if the fruit were exposed to direct moonlight? Start with: If the moonlight strikes the surface, the fruit might... (3 marks)

6. Creative Conclusion: Write a final prediction about the fruit's future in the jungle. Start with: In the coming weeks, the jungle shall... (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine the fruit was sold at a local market for £12.50. Write a persuasive paragraph using modal verbs to convince a customer why they should—or should not—buy it. Justify your argument by considering the potential risks and benefits.