

Reporting on the Remarkable: A Newspaper Challenge

Learning objective: To identify and apply the structural features of a newspaper report, including the headline, orientation, and formal journalistic tone.

Read the following report written by Kit the fox for the Forest Gazette. Carefully analyse the language used to inform the reader, then complete the questions below.

MYSTERY OF THE MISSING MEADOW FLOWERS. By Kit Fox. Last Tuesday, the residents of Willow Brook were left bewildered when the entire patch of bluebells vanished overnight. The local bees, led by Bea, discovered that the flowers had not been stolen, but had simply bloomed in a hidden cavern due to an unusual subterranean heat pocket. 'I have never witnessed such a peculiar botanical phenomenon,' stated Bea, whilst inspecting the site. Investigations are ongoing, but for now, the meadow remains a quiet, green space. Local authorities are advising citizens to remain calm while the mystery of the migration is solved.

Word bank: Headline · Orientation · Journalistic tone · 5 Ws (Who, What, Where, When, Why) · Past tense · Third person · Caption

1. Identify the '5 Ws' in the first paragraph. Explain why these are essential for a newspaper report. (2 marks)

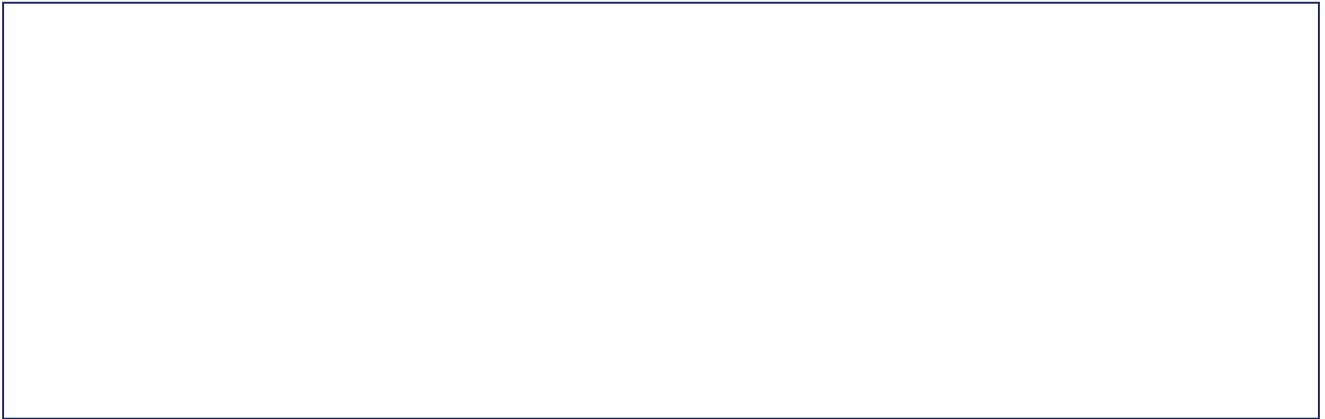
2. Why has the author chosen to write this report in the third person rather than the first person? (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the tone of this newspaper report with a fictional storybook. Justify your answer using examples from the text. (3 marks)

4. Explain why the inclusion of a direct quote from Bea adds credibility to this report. (2 marks)

5. What might happen if the author had used informal, chatty language instead of a formal journalistic tone? How would the reader's perception of the event change? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a newspaper front page layout. Include a space for a headline, an image of the mystery meadow, and a photo caption below the image.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are an investigative journalist. Write the opening paragraph (the orientation) for a new report about a sudden, unexplained golden sunset that lasted for three days. Use formal language and ensure you cover the 5 Ws.