

Paragraph Pioneers: The Art of Structure

Learning objective: To understand the purpose of paragraphs in organising ideas and shifting focus in narrative writing.

Pip the bookworm is trying to organise a story about his forest adventures, but his notes have become jumbled. A paragraph should start whenever there is a change in time, place, topic, or person. Read the scrambled sentences below and decide where the 'paragraph breaks' should occur by using the symbol // to show where a new paragraph begins. Then, explain your reasoning for your choices.

Word bank: Chronological · Perspective · Transition · Thematic · Cohesion · Structure · Narrative

1. 1. Pip was busy reading under the oak tree. The sun began to set, casting long shadows across the grass. Suddenly, he heard a rustle in the bushes nearby. Max the monkey swung down from a low branch, holding a basket of fruit. 'I have solved the puzzle of the missing berries!' Max announced excitedly. Pip put his book down and looked at the basket. It was completely empty. 'Perhaps the berries were eaten by the wind?' Max joked with a cheeky grin. Pip laughed and suggested they look for clues near the stream instead. The stream was cold and clear, reflecting the twinkling stars above. (3 marks)

2. 2. Justify your decision: Why did you choose to place a paragraph break before Max entered the scene? (2 marks)

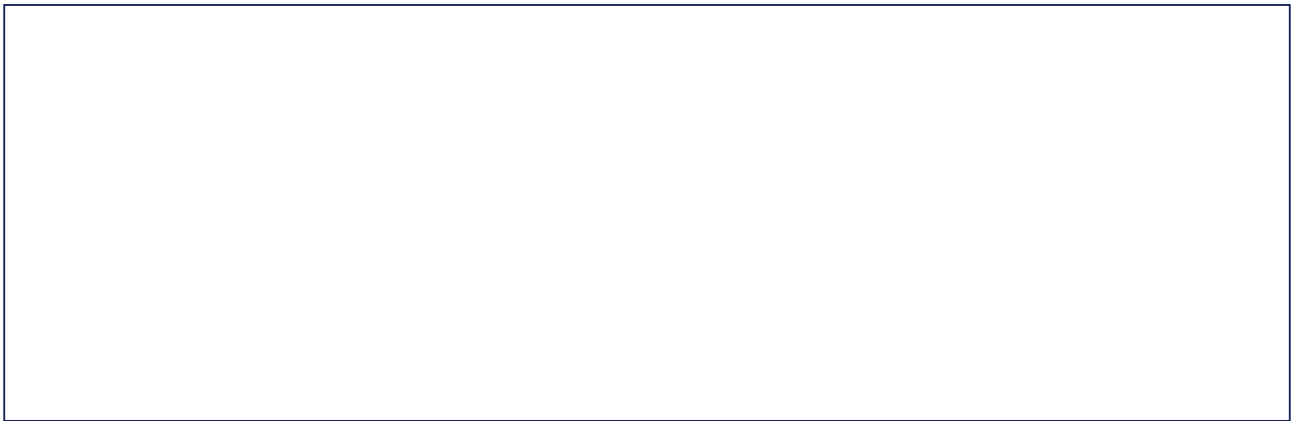
3. 3. Explain why the final sentence regarding the stream should be part of a new paragraph rather than attached to the dialogue. (2 marks)

4. 4. Compare and contrast: How does changing the paragraph structure change the reader's perception of the pacing in the story? (3 marks)

5. 5. What might happen to the clarity of a story if a writer never used paragraph breaks? (2 marks)

6. 6. Construct a new paragraph that introduces a shift in 'time' to follow the scene at the stream, ensuring you use a fronted adverbial. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a visual map of the story above, using different coloured borders to represent the three distinct paragraphs you identified.



Extension challenge: Write a short, three-paragraph descriptive piece about a bustling marketplace where items cost between £1.50 and £5.00. Your first paragraph must focus on the sights, the second on the sounds, and the third on a specific transaction involving a character purchasing an item.