

Mastering the Art of Paragraphs with Pip

Learning objective: To understand how paragraphs are used to organise ideas, create structure, and signal shifts in a narrative.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions below to test your understanding of text structure.

Pip the caterpillar spends many hours curled up on a leaf, carefully reading through piles of books. Pip knows that a well-written story is like a sturdy ladder; each paragraph is a rung that helps the reader climb higher into the adventure. When Pip begins a new paragraph, he is signalling a change. Sometimes, it marks a shift in time, moving the story from a sunny morning to a starlit evening. Other times, it introduces a fresh character or a different setting. By grouping related sentences together, Pip ensures that his own writing remains tidy and easy to follow. Without these clear divisions, a story would become a messy tangle of ideas, leaving the reader feeling quite lost. Pip always reminds his friends that a paragraph is more than just a block of text; it is a deliberate choice to guide the reader's journey. Whether describing a bustling forest or a quiet moment of reflection, using paragraphs allows Pip to paint a vivid picture in the mind of his reader, keeping the flow of the story smooth and logical.

Word bank: cohesion · structure · narrative · transition · thematic · paragraph · punctuation

1. According to the text, what are two reasons why Pip might start a new paragraph? (2 marks)

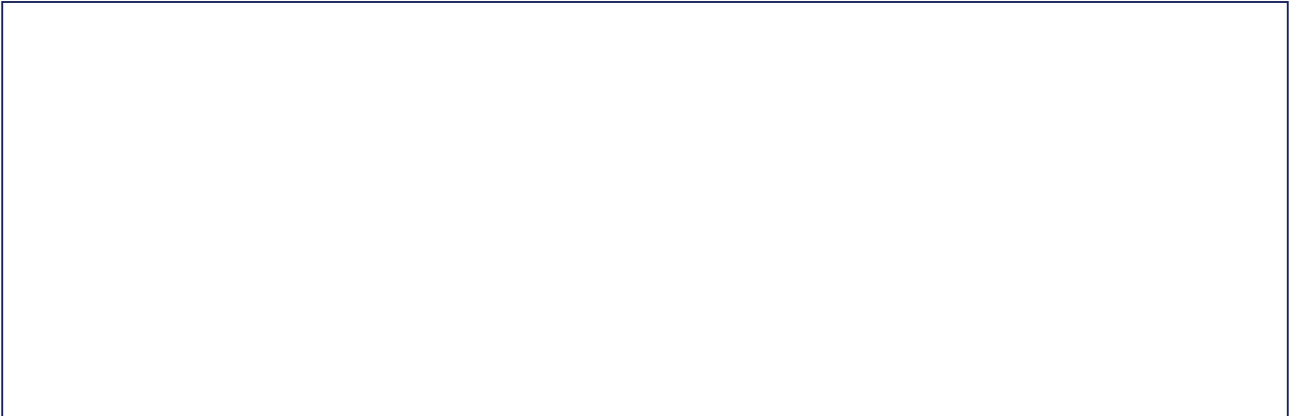
2. What does Pip compare a well-written story to, and why does he use this comparison? (2 marks)

3. Why does the author suggest that a story without paragraphs would be 'a messy tangle of ideas'? (2 marks)

4. How does the use of paragraphs help to manage the reader's experience of a story? (2 marks)

5. Do you agree with Pip's view that a paragraph is a 'deliberate choice' rather than just a formatting rule? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Pip the caterpillar sitting on a leaf, surrounded by books, where each book has clear, distinct paragraphs visible on its open pages.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph about your favourite hobby, then write a second paragraph describing a challenge you faced while doing it. Ensure there is a clear transition between the two topics.