

Mastering Paragraphs with Pip the Bookworm

Learning objective: To use paragraphs to organise information and ideas logically, using a range of cohesive devices.

Read the passage below about Pip's reading nook. Then, answer the questions to demonstrate your understanding of how paragraphs structure a piece of writing.

Pip the caterpillar spent most of his days nestled in the hollow of an ancient oak tree. His nook was filled with piles of books, each one smelling of old paper and adventure. He had carefully organised his collection by genre, ensuring that his mystery novels were separate from his poetry anthologies. Every morning, Pip would select a new story to lose himself in, often forgetting to eat his breakfast leaves until the afternoon.

However, Pip was not just a reader; he was also a collector of words. Whenever he found a particularly interesting word, he would write it on a tiny scrap of birch bark. He kept these scraps in a jar made from a polished acorn shell. By the time the sun began to dip below the horizon, the jar was usually overflowing with vocabulary. This collection helped Pip when he tried to write his own stories, as he always had the perfect adjective ready to describe a forest sunset or the sound of rustling leaves.

Word bank: cohesion · transition · thematic · structure · narrative · paragraphing

1. The passage is divided into two distinct paragraphs. Briefly explain what the focus of the first paragraph is compared to the second paragraph. (2 marks)

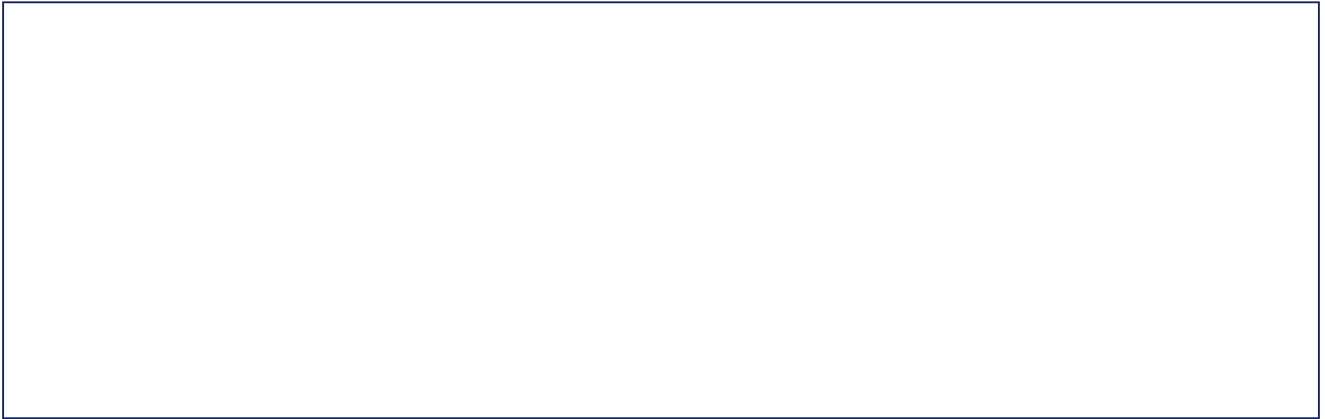
2. Identify the word at the start of the second paragraph that acts as a cohesive device to show a shift in focus. What does this word suggest to the reader? (2 marks)

3. If you were to add a third paragraph to this text about Pip's plans for the future, what could it be about? Suggest a topic sentence for this new paragraph. (2 marks)

4. Why is it important for a writer to start a new paragraph when they introduce a new subject or idea? (2 marks)

5. Find and copy an example of a cohesive device (other than the one at the start of the second paragraph) used to link ideas within the text. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a picture of Pip's reading nook inside the oak tree. Include the jars of word-scrap and the piles of books described in the text.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph of your own (4-6 sentences) describing a hobby you enjoy. Ensure your paragraph has a clear focus and uses at least two cohesive devices like 'furthermore', 'consequently', or 'in addition'.