

The Great School Garden Debate with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To identify and use persuasive techniques including emotive language, rhetorical questions, and modal verbs to construct a convincing argument.

Max the Monkey is trying to persuade the Headteacher to build a new treehouse library in the school garden. He has drafted a speech, but he has mixed up his persuasive techniques. Use the word bank to complete his speech and then answer the questions below to help Max perfect his argument.

Dear Headteacher, I am writing to propose a brand-new treehouse library. (1) _____ the joy of reading under the canopy of the trees? This space would (2) _____ our school garden into a sanctuary for learning. It is (3) _____ that students need a quiet place to escape into their books. (4) _____ child deserves a space that inspires them. Our garden is already (5) _____, but a library would make it even better. We (6) _____ must consider this project, as it is (7) _____ for our wellbeing and academic success.

Word bank: undoubtedly · surely · transform · essential · imagine · vibrant · every single

1. Which word from the word bank is a rhetorical question? Explain why Max chose to include it in his opening. (2 marks)

2. Identify the 'modal verb' used in the final sentence and explain how it adds authority to Max's request. (2 marks)

3. Max wants to use 'emotive language' to describe the books. Write a sentence he could add to his speech that uses an adjective to create a strong feeling. (2 marks)

4. Why is the word 'undoubtedly' more persuasive than simply saying 'I think'? (2 marks)

5. 5. Max wants to suggest that the library will cost £450 to build. Write one persuasive sentence using this figure to convince the Headteacher it is a 'bargain' for the school. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a design for Max the Monkey's treehouse library. Include labels that use persuasive adjectives to describe the features (e.g., 'A comfortable, cosy reading nook').



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph (3-4 sentences) from the perspective of the Headteacher, responding to Max. Use at least one rhetorical question and one modal verb (such as 'should', 'must', or 'will') to show your decision.