

Persuading the People of Puddle-by-the-Sea

Learning objective: To identify and use persuasive techniques including emotive language, rhetorical questions, and modal verbs.

Read the speech written by Pip the caterpillar. Identify the persuasive features used to convince the town council to build a new community library, then answer the questions below.

Honourable Council Members, I stand before you today as a humble bookworm with a vision. Our town is currently a quiet place, but imagine if it were a hub of imagination! Do we want our children to grow up without the magic of a thousand stories at their fingertips? Surely not. Building the Puddle-by-the-Sea Community Library would be a monumental step towards a brighter future. Think of the precious knowledge that could be shared; think of the marvellous memories created within those walls. We must act now. With your support, we could transform the old, empty barn into a sanctuary of learning. Can you really afford to ignore the potential of our youth? Let us choose to invest in wisdom today.

Word bank: rhetorical question · emotive language · modal verb · exaggeration · alliteration · persuasive

1. Find and copy one rhetorical question used by Pip in the speech. Explain why this technique is effective in persuasive writing. (2 marks)

2. Identify two examples of emotive language used in the passage to help sway the Council's opinion. (2 marks)

3. Locate a modal verb in the text that expresses a sense of obligation or necessity. How does this word influence the reader? (2 marks)

4. Pip uses the phrase 'marvellous memories'. What linguistic device is this, and why might an author use it in a persuasive argument? (2 marks)

5. If you were arguing against building the library, what is one counter-argument you could write using a formal tone? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a sketch of how the 'old, empty barn' could look once it has been transformed into a beautiful community library, including details like bookshelves, cosy reading nooks, and windows filled with light.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph (4-6 sentences) from the perspective of a local resident who disagrees with the library proposal. Use at least two modal verbs and one rhetorical question to express your concern about the cost of £50,000 for the renovation.