

The Stargazer's Discovery

Learning objective: To retrieve and infer information from a non-fiction text, identifying how language, structure and presentation contribute to meaning.

Read the passage carefully. Answer the questions below using evidence from the text to support your answers. Ensure your spelling and grammar are accurate.

Nova the barn owl is a dedicated observer of the night sky. Perched high in the ancient oak tree, she watches the celestial dance above. Last Tuesday, Nova spotted a rare phenomenon: a meteor shower that illuminated the dark horizon with streaks of silver light. She carefully recorded the trajectory of the falling stars in her leather-bound journal. 'Every star has a story,' Nova remarked to her friend Leo the lion, who was busy composing a poem about the twilight. Nova explained that these meteors were actually tiny fragments of space rock, no larger than a grain of sand, burning up as they entered the Earth's atmosphere. By using her telescope, she calculated that the shower would last for exactly four hours, costing her nothing but a few hours of sleep and a flask of warm tea. To Nova, the sky is not just a dark canopy; it is a complex, beautiful puzzle waiting to be solved.

Word bank: astronomy · constellation · luminous · trajectory · celestial · phenomenon

1. Why does Nova keep a leather-bound journal? Provide evidence from the text. (2 marks)

2. Explain in your own words what Nova means when she says, 'Every star has a story.' (2 marks)

3. What scientific explanation does Nova provide for the 'streaks of silver light' seen in the sky? (2 marks)

4. How does the author show that Nova and Leo have different ways of appreciating the night sky? (3 marks)

5. Find and copy one word from the text that describes the brightness of the stars. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a scene featuring Nova the barn owl looking through her telescope at the night sky. Include the silver streaks of the meteor shower and Leo the lion nearby with his notebook and pen.



Extension challenge: Nova spent £4.50 on a new ink cartridge for her pen and £2.75 on a small torch to help her write in the dark. If she paid with a £10 note, calculate the change she received and write a short diary entry from Nova's perspective describing her favourite constellation.