

The Weaver of Whispers: Crafting Compelling Narratives

Learning objective: To analyse how authors use descriptive vocabulary and character development to create atmosphere and engage the reader.

Read the passage below carefully. Consider how the author uses sensory details to build a scene. Use the word bank to help enrich your responses to the questions.

Leo the lion sat within the hushed library of the Great Oak, his golden mane catching the dappled light filtering through the canopy. Before him lay a collection of ancient, leather-bound scrolls, their edges frayed like autumn leaves. He was searching for the 'Whispering Tale', a myth whispered by the elders of the forest. As he unfurled the parchment, the ink seemed to shimmer, forming characters that danced across the page. The air grew heavy with the scent of old paper and pine needles. Leo felt a shiver of anticipation; he knew that stories were not merely words on a page, but echoes of forgotten journeys waiting to be heard. He dipped his quill into his pot of midnight-blue ink, costing him a modest £4.50 at the village market, and prepared to add his own verse to the tapestry of history.

Word bank: Atmospheric · Enigmatic · Intricate · Melancholy · Vivid · Anticipation · Resonance · Surreal

1. Identify two sensory details in the text that help create an atmospheric setting. Explain how these contribute to the reader's mood. (2 marks)

2. Leo perceives stories as 'echoes of forgotten journeys'. Based on this metaphor, how does Leo view the role of a writer? (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast Leo's feelings in this passage with how a character might feel if they were discovering a story for the first time in a modern digital format. (3 marks)

4. Justify why the author chose to describe the scrolls' edges as 'frayed like autumn leaves'. What does this simile suggest about the age and condition of the stories? (2 marks)

5. What might happen if the ink Leo uses were to lose its shimmer? Predict the effect this would have on the 'Whispering Tale'. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw your own version of the 'Whispering Tale' parchment. Use intricate patterns to show the ink dancing off the page and include elements that represent 'forgotten journeys'.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are an author writing a sequel to this story. Write a short paragraph (5-8 sentences) describing the 'Whispering Tale' itself. Use at least four words from the word bank and ensure your writing style is vivid and imaginative.