

Mastering Narrative Craft: Building Better Stories

Learning objective: To analyse narrative structure and demonstrate the ability to manipulate descriptive techniques to enhance atmosphere and character development.

Read each question carefully and apply your knowledge of narrative structure, linguistic devices, and characterisation. Use the word bank to help enrich your responses.

N/A

Word bank: foreshadowing · climax · ambiguous · atmosphere · characterisation · metaphor · perspective · resolution

1. Max the monkey is writing a story about a hidden treasure in the jungle. Explain why using 'foreshadowing' early in his story might make the plot more engaging for the reader. (2 marks)

2. Nova the owl wants to describe a stormy night without using the word 'scary'. Write two sentences using powerful verbs and a metaphor to create a tense atmosphere. (3 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the effect of writing a story in the first person ('I') versus the third person ('he/she'). Which perspective would be more effective for a mystery story and why? (3 marks)

4. Ellie the elephant has created a character who is hiding a secret. Justify your answer: How can Ellie show the character's nervousness through their actions rather than just telling the reader they are nervous? (2 marks)

5. What might happen to the emotional impact of a story if the 'climax' occurs in the very first paragraph? Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

6. If a story ends with an 'ambiguous' conclusion, how does this affect the reader's final thoughts? Discuss the benefits and drawbacks of this technique. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'story map' for a tale about Pip the caterpillar. Include labels for the Introduction, Inciting Incident, Climax, and Resolution. Use artistic flourishes to show the mood of each section.



Extension challenge: Choose one scene from a story you have recently read. Rewrite the scene from the perspective of a minor character who was in the room but did not speak. Ensure the tone of your writing remains consistent with the original narrative voice.