

Year 6 Assessment: The Craft of Storytelling

Learning objective: To demonstrate understanding of narrative structure, character development, and descriptive techniques in fiction.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions below. Ensure your responses are written in clear, punctuated sentences. Check your spelling and grammar before submitting.

Max the monkey sat at his wooden desk, tapping his pencil against a stack of maths problems. Beside him, Pip the caterpillar was busy scanning a dusty, ancient map. Suddenly, the wind whistled through the library window, causing the candles to flicker and die. In the darkness, a soft, rhythmic thumping sound began to echo from the floorboards below. Max froze. Pip tucked his magnifying glass away, his tiny antennae twitching with nervous energy. They looked at each other, realising that the library was not as empty as they had first believed.

Word bank: foreshadowing · atmosphere · protagonist · perspective · tension · metaphor · climax

1. Identify the two protagonists in the passage and explain how the author creates a sense of tension in the second paragraph. (2 marks)

2. Find and copy a piece of evidence from the text that suggests the library is an old or neglected place. (1 mark)

3. Explain the effect of the author's choice of the word 'flicker' when describing the candles. What atmosphere does this help to build? (3 marks)

4. If the story were to continue, suggest one way the author could use 'foreshadowing' to hint at a mystery involving the floorboards. (4 marks)

5. Max and Pip are very different characters. How does the author show their differing reactions to the strange noise? Use evidence from the text. (4 marks)

6. Extended Writing Task: Write a continuation of the story (100–150 words). Describe what happens when Max and Pip decide to investigate the source of the thumping sound. Focus on using descriptive language to build suspense. (5 marks)

7. If Max and Pip decide to charge an entry fee of £1.50 per person to see the library's secret treasure, how much money would they make if 12 people visited? (2 marks)

8. Think of a synonym for the word 'rhythmic' as used in the passage. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a scene depicting Max and Pip inside the library, focusing on how you would represent the 'flickering' light and the mystery of the floorboards.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Write a short paragraph explaining why an author might choose to switch the perspective of a story from the main character to a minor character.