

An Adventure in the Canopy with Max and Nova

Learning objective: To identify, explain, and use subordinate clauses to add complexity to sentences.

Read the passage carefully, paying close attention to the way the sentences are structured. Use the word bank to help you understand the terminology before answering the questions.

Max the monkey swung through the emerald canopy, which shimmered under the golden morning sun. Although he was usually focused on climbing, his sharp eyes spotted Nova the owl perched upon a high, sturdy branch. Nova, who was carefully observing the constellations through her telescope, beckoned for him to join her. Because they enjoyed solving complex problems together, Max eagerly leaped across the gap to reach her side. While the forest hummed with the gentle songs of waking birds, the two friends began to calculate the trajectory of a distant falling star. Max noticed that the patterns in the sky were just like a giant maths puzzle. Since he loved a challenge, he scribbled numbers onto a large leaf. Nova smiled, knowing that their combined curiosity would always lead them to new discoveries. They worked in perfect harmony, even though the morning mist began to swirl around the ancient trees, turning the vibrant forest into a mysterious, silver world.

Word bank: Subordinate clause · Relative pronoun · Conjunction · Main clause · Complexity · Information

1. Identify two subordinate clauses from the text that begin with a subordinating conjunction. (2 marks)

2. What are the two characters doing in the canopy, and what tools are they using to help them? (2 marks)

3. Explain why the author has chosen to include the subordinate clause 'which shimmered under the golden morning sun' rather than just saying 'the canopy was golden'. (2 marks)

4. What might happen if the morning mist became too thick for Nova to see through her telescope? (2 marks)

5. Do you think Max and Nova make a good team? Justify your answer using evidence from the text. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene showing Max and Nova in the high treetops. Include the telescope, the leaf with maths calculations, and the swirling morning mist mentioned in the story.



Extension challenge: Rewrite the final paragraph of the passage. Add at least two more subordinate clauses to describe the atmosphere of the forest in greater detail. Then, compare and contrast your new version with the original: how does the added information change the reader's mood?