

Lexical Landscapes with Pip the Bookworm

Learning objective: To improve writing by selecting precise vocabulary and exploring the impact of synonyms and antonyms.

Read the passage carefully and look for ways to enhance the writing. Use the word bank to help you identify more descriptive alternatives to common verbs and adjectives.

Pip the caterpillar sat on a big leaf. He looked at the forest. The sun was bright in the sky. A river went through the trees. Pip felt happy. He climbed up a tall branch to see the view better. Even though the clouds were a bit dark, the colours of the flowers were very bright and lovely. Pip loved his home.

Word bank: formidable · shimmering · meandered · colossal · tranquil · vibrant · ascended · gloomy

1. Identify two adjectives from the passage that you think could be improved. Replace them with words from the word bank to make the description more vivid. (2 marks)

2. The verb 'went' is used to describe the river. Explain why 'meandered' is a more effective choice in this context. (2 marks)

3. Find an antonym for 'tranquil' within the passage. If the forest were not tranquil, what might it be like? Justify your answer. (3 marks)

4. How does the author's choice of the word 'formidable' (if used to describe the mountain in the distance) change the tone of the passage compared to using the word 'big'? (3 marks)

5. Rewrite the final sentence of the passage to include one adverb and one adjective from the word bank to show Pip's strong connection to his home. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene of the 'shimmering' river winding through a 'colossal' forest, showing Pip the caterpillar observing the 'vibrant' flowers from a high branch.



Extension challenge: Imagine Pip encounters a mysterious, ancient stone monument in the forest. Write a paragraph (5–7 sentences) describing this discovery. You must use at least four words from the word bank and include one complex sentence starting with a subordinate clause to build suspense.