

World Book Day: The Library of Infinite Imagination

Learning objective: To analyse the impact of storytelling and evaluate the importance of reading for pleasure through critical reflection.

Read the passage below carefully. Use your inference skills to answer the questions, ensuring you justify your opinions with evidence from the text.

Pip the bookworm caterpillar sat atop a towering stack of encyclopaedias, his spectacles perched precariously on his nose. For World Book Day, Pip had curated a collection of stories that spanned the globe and touched the stars. 'Books are not merely ink on paper,' Pip explained to his friends. 'They are portals. When you open a cover, you are not just reading words; you are stepping into a different perspective. You might walk through the dusty corridors of an ancient civilisation with Ellie, or navigate the swirling currents of the deep ocean with Finn. Every character you meet becomes a mirror reflecting parts of yourself you have yet to discover. By celebrating World Book Day, we honour the power of the human imagination to build bridges between people, places, and times that exist only in our minds.' Max the monkey chimed in, 'I like to count the number of adventures in a single volume!' Pip smiled, 'Exactly, Max. The maths of a story is infinite, because every reader creates a new equation of meaning every time they turn the page.'

Word bank: narrative · perspective · fictional · eloquence · empathy · legacy · vivid · literary

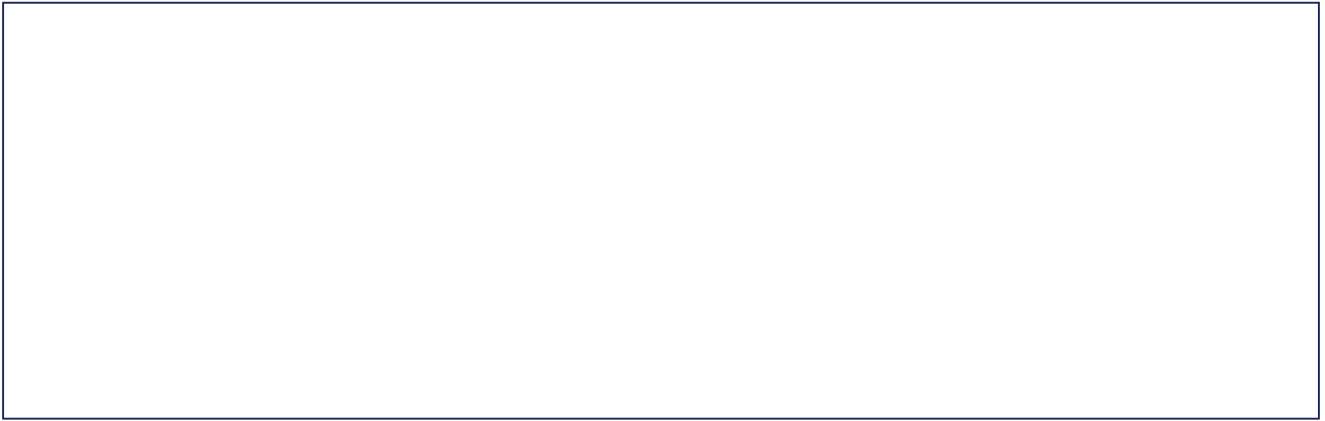
1. Pip describes books as 'portals'. Explain what he means by this metaphor and how it relates to the experience of reading. (2 marks)

2. Compare and contrast how Pip and Max value books differently based on the passage. (3 marks)

3. Why does Pip suggest that reading helps us understand ourselves better? Justify your answer using the text. (3 marks)

4. What might happen if all the fictional books in the world suddenly vanished? Discuss the impact on society. (4 marks)

Draw: Design a 'Portal Book' cover that represents a world you would love to visit. Include at least three symbols that hint at the story inside.



Extension challenge: Write a persuasive paragraph arguing why reading for pleasure is an essential skill for a 21st-century learner. Use at least four words from the word bank.