

The Art of Vocal Expression with Pip and Zara

Learning objective: To understand and apply the principles of vocal technique, including pitch, dynamics, tempo, and articulation when performing a song.

Read each question carefully. Use your musical knowledge to explain how vocal techniques influence the mood and delivery of a musical performance. Remember to use technical terminology.

Word bank: Pitch · Dynamics · Tempo · Articulation · Staccato · Legato · Crescendo · Diminuendo · Vocal cords

1. Pip is singing a poem about a gentle, slow-moving caterpillar. Explain why he should use 'legato' phrasing rather than 'staccato' to convey the mood of the piece. (2 marks)

2. Zara is composing a song that starts very quietly and gradually gets louder as the sun rises. Which musical terms would you use to describe this change in volume, and how does it affect the listener? (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast 'pitch' and 'tempo'. How do these two elements work together to change the character of a melody? (3 marks)

4. Justify your answer: Why is it important for a singer to maintain good posture and controlled breathing when performing a long, complex musical phrase? (2 marks)

5. What might happen to the clarity of a performance if a singer ignores the 'articulation' of the lyrics? Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

6. If you were tasked with teaching a song to a group, how would you use dynamics to create an emotional climax in the final chorus? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a visual representation of a musical crescendo. Use patterns and colours to show how the sound grows from a soft whisper to a powerful, loud roar.



Extension challenge: Compose a short four-line poem about the BookFlik characters. Next to each line, write the musical instructions (e.g., 'pianissimo', 'accelerando', 'staccato') you would use to perform it, and justify why those specific choices suit the lyrics.