The Great Debate: Mastering Rhetorical Devices

Learning objective: To identify and apply rhetorical devices such as emotive language, rhetorical questions, and the rule of three to persuade an audience.

Max the monkey is preparing a speech to convince the forest council to build a new community library. He needs to use persuasive techniques to win them over. Read the sentences below and match them to the correct rhetorical device from the word bank. Then, use the techniques to write your own persuasive sentence for Max's speech.

Word bank: Rhetorical Question · Emotive Language · Rule of Three · Hyperbole · Alliteration

1. 1. 'Do we really want our children to grow up without the magic of stories?' (Identify the device) (1 mark)

2. 2. 'This library will be bold, brilliant, and beautiful.' (Identify the device) (1 mark)

3. 3. 'The lack of books is a heart-breaking tragedy that ruins futures.' (Identify the device) (1 mark)

4. 4. 'I have told the council a million times that we need this space!' (Identify the device) (1 mark)

5. 5. Max wants to persuade the forest council that reading is important. Write a sentence using the 'Rule of Three' to support his cause. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a speech bubble coming from Max the monkey, showing him standing on a wooden podium in the forest, gesturing towards a blueprint of the new library.

Extension challenge: Choose one of these topics: 'Should primary school children have more break time?' or 'Should school uniforms be optional?' Write a short paragraph (4-6 sentences) using at least three different rhetorical devices to persuade your teacher.