Breaking News: The Great Library Mystery

Learning objective: To identify and use the key features of a newspaper report, including headlines, the 5 Ws, and formal tone.

Read the newspaper report below written by Pip the bookworm. Look closely at how the information is organised, then answer the questions that follow.

LOCAL LIBRARY DISCOVERS ANCIENT HIDDEN SCROLLS

By Pip the Bookworm

Quiet town residents were left in awe yesterday morning when a hidden compartment was discovered behind a bookshelf at the Oakwood Community Library. During a routine spring clean, the head librarian noticed a loose wooden panel, which revealed a collection of handwritten scrolls dating back over two hundred years.

'I have worked here for thirty years, and I have never seen anything like this,' remarked Mrs Gable, the chief librarian. The scrolls contain detailed maps of the local countryside and stories about the town's founding families. Experts from the city museum have been invited to examine the documents to ensure they are preserved correctly for future generations.

Local authorities have confirmed that the library will remain closed to the public for the next three days while the investigation continues. A small exhibition is being planned for later this month, where residents will finally have the chance to view these extraordinary historical treasures.

Word bank: Headline · Byline · Lead paragraph · Formal tone · Direct speech · The 5 Ws (Who, What, Where, When, Why)

1. Identify the 5 Ws in the first paragraph: Who was involved, what happened, where did it happen, and when? (2 marks)

2. Why do you think the author chose to include a direct quote from Mrs Gable? How does it affect the reader? (2 marks)

3. Explain why the library is closing for three days. Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (2 marks)

4. Newspaper reports use a formal tone. Find and copy two adjectives from the text that make the discovery sound important. (2 marks)

5. If the library charged a £2.50 entry fee for the new exhibition and 120 people visited on the first day, how much money would the library raise? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a sketch of what you think the hidden scrolls might look like inside the secret compartment. Think about the texture of the paper and the ink.

Extension challenge: Write a catchy headline for a different news story about an animal discovering a lost treasure in the woods. Remember to use capital letters and keep it punchy!