An Adventure in the Library with Pip

Learning objective: To identify and use subordinate clauses to add detail and complexity to sentences.

Read the text carefully. Remember that a subordinate clause adds extra information but cannot stand alone as a complete sentence. Answer the questions in full sentences.

Pip the caterpillar spends his afternoons in the dusty, quiet corners of the village library. Because he loves stories, he often spends hours curled up on top of a towering bookshelf. While the other insects play in the garden, Pip prefers to read about ancient civilisations or mysterious far-off lands. When he finds a particularly good word, he carefully writes it down in his tiny notebook. Although his legs are very short, he manages to climb the tallest ladders with surprising speed. If he discovers a book about history, he invites Ellie the elephant to join him for a reading session. Ellie, who has an incredible memory, always enjoys hearing about the past. Whenever Pip finishes a chapter, he feels a sense of accomplishment. Since he started his collection, he has gathered over five hundred new words. Even though he is small, Pip believes that books are the greatest adventure of all. His dream is to write a story that everyone in the forest will want to read. As the sun begins to set, Pip tucks his notebook away and prepares for his next literary journey.

Word bank: Subordinate · Clause · Complex sentence · Conjunction · Relative pronoun

1. Find and copy two subordinate clauses from the text that begin with the subordinating conjunction 'because' or 'although'. (2 marks)

2. What does Pip do whenever he finds a word he particularly likes? (2 marks)

3. Why might Pip choose to invite Ellie to read books about history with him? (2 marks)

4. How does the author show that Pip is dedicated to his hobby of collecting words? (2 marks)

5. Do you think Pip is a good role model for other children? Justify your opinion using evidence from the text. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Pip the caterpillar sitting on a giant library book, using a magnifying glass to read a tiny word, with a notebook open beside him.

Extension challenge: Write three sentences about your favourite hobby. Each sentence must include at least one subordinate clause, beginning with conjunctions such as 'after', 'unless', or 'if'.