

The Great Forest Debate

Learning objective: To identify and explain the use of rhetorical devices in persuasive speech.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below, ensuring you use evidence from the passage to support your ideas.

In the heart of the Whispering Woods, Leo the Lion stood before the animal council. It was time to decide whether to plant a new fruit orchard or keep the meadow open for stargazing. Nova the Owl hovered nearby, ready to document the arguments. Leo began with a powerful opening: 'Friends, we stand at a crossroads. Do we choose the sweet taste of progress or the quiet beauty of the night sky?' He used repetition to emphasise his passion: 'We need space to grow, we need space to dream, and we need space to thrive.' His voice was steady and calm, designed to reach every creature, from the smallest beetle to the tallest giraffe. 'Is it not our duty to protect our home?' he asked, using a rhetorical question to make the audience think. When the debate grew heated, Leo remained balanced. He did not use anger; instead, he used kind, emotive language to show how the orchard would feed the hungry during the winter. By the end of his speech, the animals felt inspired, not forced. Leo had mastered the art of persuasion.

Word bank: rhetorical · persuasive · exaggeration · repetition · emotive · audience

1. Identify two rhetorical devices Leo uses in his speech. (2 marks)

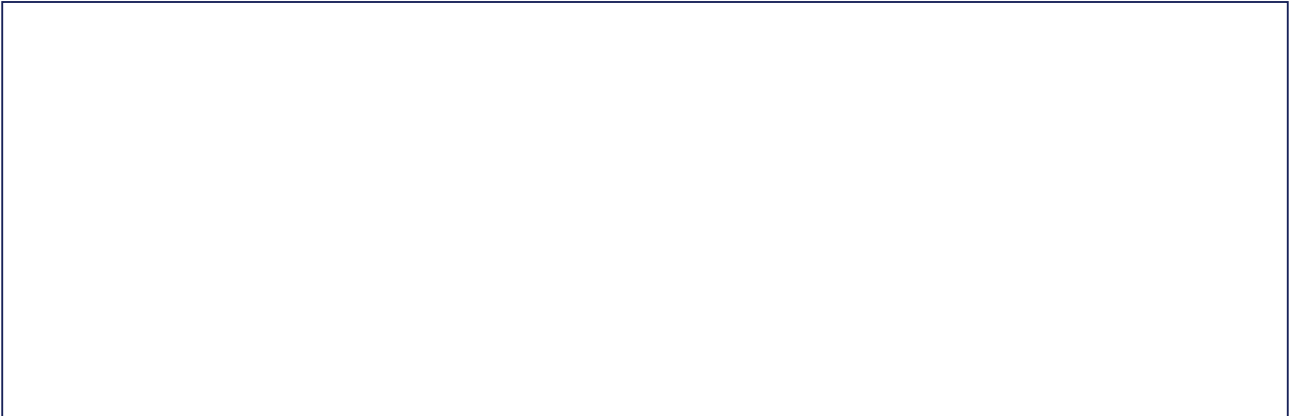
2. According to the text, why did Leo choose to use the orchard argument during the winter? (2 marks)

3. Why does the author describe Leo's voice as 'steady and calm'? (2 marks)

4. Explain why Nova the Owl is a suitable character to document the council's debate. (2 marks)

5. Do you think Leo was an effective speaker? Justify your answer using evidence from the text. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene of Leo the Lion standing on a wooden podium in a forest clearing, with various animals like Nova the Owl and Max the Monkey listening attentively to his speech.



Extension challenge: Choose a topic you feel strongly about, such as 'School uniforms should be optional' or 'Playtimes should be longer'. Write a short paragraph using one rhetorical question and one example of repetition to persuade your teacher.