Inspiring Change: Writing a Persuasive Speech with Leo the Lion

Learning objective: To identify and use persuasive devices, including rhetorical questions, emotive language, and the rule of three, to write a compelling speech.

Read the speech written by Leo the Lion for the annual Forest Council. After reading, use your knowledge of persuasive techniques to answer the questions below. Remember to use formal but engaging language.

Fellow creatures of the woodland, look around you. Do we want our beautiful, blooming, bountiful forest to fade away? We stand at a turning point. Every single one of us has the power to protect our home. By recycling our waste, planting native seeds, and respecting our riverbanks, we can ensure a future for our children. Why wait for someone else to make a difference when we have the strength to do it ourselves? Together, we can restore our meadows, revive our streams, and rejuvenate our spirits. The time for action is not tomorrow; it is today.

Word bank: rhetorical question · emotive language · rule of three · persuasive · alliteration · inclusive pronouns

1. Identify one example of the 'rule of three' used in Leo's speech and explain why this technique is effective. (2 marks)

2. Find and copy a rhetorical question from the text. Why does Leo use this technique instead of making a direct statement? (2 marks)

3. Highlight two examples of alliteration in the first paragraph. How do these help the speech sound more memorable? (2 marks)

4. Leo uses the pronoun 'we' throughout his speech. Why is this an effective choice for a persuasive speech? (2 marks)

5. If you were to add a sentence using emotive language to convince the animals to save water, what would you write? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a poster to accompany Leo the Lion's speech. Include a powerful slogan and an illustration that reflects the 'beautiful, blooming, bountiful' forest he describes.

Extension challenge: Choose a local issue in your community (such as littering in the park or the need for a new library shelf). Write a short opening paragraph (4-6 sentences) for a speech, ensuring you include at least one rhetorical question and one example of the rule of three.