

An Afternoon in the Ancient Library

Learning objective: To identify and use expanded noun phrases to add detail and imagery to writing.

Read the text carefully. Answer the questions below, ensuring you use evidence from the text where required. Remember to look for nouns modified by adjectives and prepositional phrases.

Pip the caterpillar crawled slowly across the dusty, wooden shelves of the ancient library. He was searching for a particular book bound in cracked, green leather. The library was a magical place, filled with towering, oak bookcases that stretched towards the high, vaulted ceiling. Sunlight filtered through the stained-glass windows, casting colourful, dancing patterns onto the worn, patterned carpet. Pip paused near a heavy, metal lantern that hung from a thick, iron chain. He adjusted his tiny, silk spectacles and looked up at the vast, silent room. Nearby, Nova the owl sat perched upon a sturdy, mahogany desk, her golden eyes scanning the rows of crumbling, paper pages. Together, they explored the quiet, mysterious corridors, looking for the legendary map of the forgotten kingdom. The air was thick with the scent of old parchment and secret stories, waiting for a curious explorer to find them. Pip felt a sudden, joyful flutter of excitement as he spotted the glimmering, golden spine of the book he had been dreaming about all week.

Word bank: adjective · noun · preposition · phrase · description · detail

1. Find and copy two examples of expanded noun phrases used to describe the library's furniture. (2 marks)

2. What material is the book that Pip is searching for made of, and where is it located? (2 marks)

3. Why do you think the author chose to describe the library as a 'magical place'? (2 marks)

4. Based on the description of Nova's actions, what can you infer about her role in the library? (2 marks)

5. Do you think the expanded noun phrases help the reader imagine the setting better? Explain your opinion using an example from the text. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw the scene inside the ancient library, making sure to include Pip the caterpillar and Nova the owl. Focus on adding detail to the bookcases and the stained-glass windows as described in the passage.



Extension challenge: Choose three objects in your own classroom. Write an expanded noun phrase for each object, using at least two adjectives and one prepositional phrase for every noun.