

The Daily Forest Gazette: Reporting the News

Learning objective: To identify and understand the key features of a newspaper report, including the headline, orientation, and past tense verbs.

Read the newspaper report below written by Pip the Bookworm. Look closely at how the information is organised, then answer the questions to show your understanding of journalistic writing.

LOCAL HERO FINDS LOST TREASURE IN THE OAK WOODS

By Pip the Bookworm

Yesterday afternoon, Max the Monkey made an exciting discovery while exploring the Great Oak Woods. Whilst searching for his lost calculator, Max stumbled upon a shiny, brass key hidden beneath a pile of autumn leaves.

'I could not believe my eyes!' Max exclaimed. 'I thought it was just a piece of scrap metal, but it looked very old and important.' Max took the key to the village museum to see if it belonged to the ancient gate. The curator, a wise old owl, confirmed that the key had been missing for over fifty years. The community is now celebrating the return of this historic item, which will be put on display for everyone to see next week.

Word bank: Headline · Orientation · Past tense · Journalist · Caption · 5 Ws (Who, What, Where, When, Why)

1. Identify the headline of the newspaper report. Why do you think newspapers use bold, catchy headlines? (2 marks)

2. The first paragraph is called the orientation. List the 'Who', 'What', and 'Where' from the report. (3 marks)

3. Find two verbs in the passage that are written in the past tense. How do you know they are in the past tense? (2 marks)

4. Why did Max go to the museum after he found the key? (1 mark)

5. If a lost item was worth £5, and you found two of them, how much money would that be in total? (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the Monkey holding the brass key in the Great Oak Woods. Don't forget to draw a small caption underneath your picture describing what is happening!



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a reporter for the school newspaper. Write a short headline and one sentence about something exciting that happened in your classroom this week.