Mastering Expanded Noun Phrases with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To use expanded noun phrases to add detail, precision, and imagery to descriptive writing.

Max the Monkey loves to turn simple sentences into detailed puzzles. Use the prompts below to build your own expanded noun phrases. Remember: an expanded noun phrase adds extra information before or after the noun using adjectives, prepositions, or relative clauses.

Max gazed up at the old tree that stood in the center of the jungle.

Word bank: shimmering · intricate · enormous · ancient · with a coat of... · which stood silently... · nestled amongst... · vibrant · mysterious · towering above...

1. Describe the tree from the passage using an expanded noun phrase. Start with: Max gazed up at the... (2 marks)

2. Imagine a mysterious treasure chest found under the roots. Describe it using two adjectives and a prepositional phrase. Start with: Hidden in the shadows lay a... (2 marks)

3. Max finds a rare, colorful flower. Describe it using a relative clause (e.g., 'which...'). Start with: He gently touched the... (2 marks)

4. Describe the jungle atmosphere using an expanded noun phrase to show how it feels. Start with: The jungle was a... (2 marks)

5. Combine your sentences into a short, descriptive paragraph. Ensure you have at least three distinct expanded noun phrases. (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Challenge: Write a sentence about Max using an expanded noun phrase that contains both a relative clause and a prepositional phrase.