

A Snowy Surprise at the Library

Learning objective: To analyse narrative structure and identify descriptive language in a Christmas-themed story.

Read the story passage below carefully. Use the word bank to help you answer the questions. Write your answers in full sentences.

The village library was quiet, save for the crackling of the fireplace. Pip the caterpillar was curled up in a tiny, hand-knitted scarf, surrounded by piles of books. Outside, the first snowflakes of Christmas Eve drifted past the window. Nova the owl perched on the windowsill, her feathers puffed up against the chill. 'The atmosphere is truly magical tonight,' Nova hooted softly. Suddenly, the door creaked open. In walked a young boy carrying a basket of handmade bookmarks to share with everyone. The library was filled with a sense of festive anticipation. Even with the frost on the glass, the room felt warm and welcoming. Pip smiled; he knew that sharing stories was the best gift of all.

Word bank: festive · atmosphere · cosy · anticipation · generosity · gleaming

1. What is the atmosphere like inside the library at the start of the story? Use evidence from the text. (2 marks)

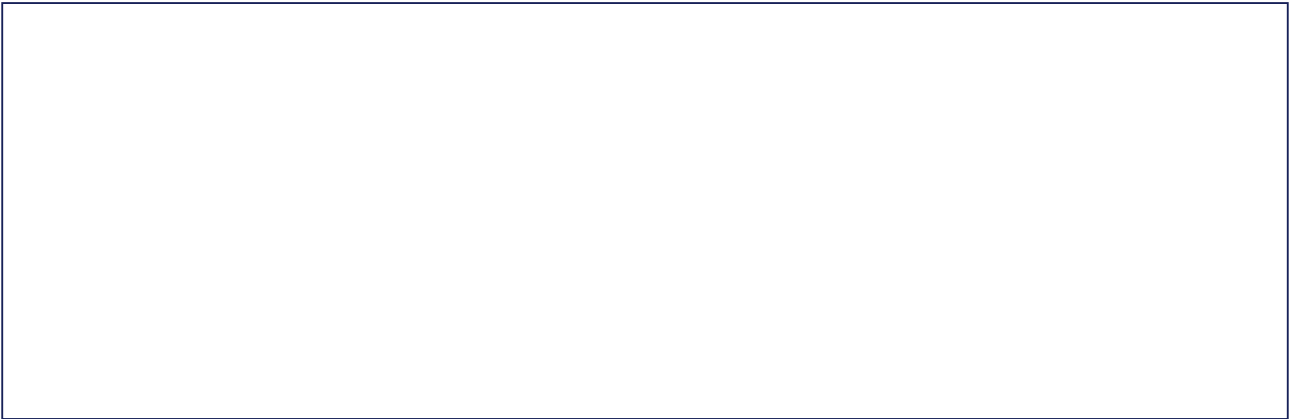
2. Why do you think the author chose to describe the library as 'cosy' while it is snowing outside? (2 marks)

3. How does the arrival of the boy change the mood in the library? (2 marks)

4. Find and copy one adjective from the text that describes how the snowflake scene might look. (1 mark)

5. What does Pip mean when he thinks that 'sharing stories was the best gift of all'? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene showing Pip and Nova inside the library. Include the fireplace, the piles of books, and the snowy view through the window.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph (3-5 sentences) about what happens next in the story. What book do Pip and the boy decide to read together?