

Festive Storytelling with Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: To use expanded noun phrases and fronted adverbials to write a descriptive Christmas story.

Read the story below. Then, answer the questions to help Ellie plan her own festive tale. Remember to use your best vocabulary!

The snow fell softly over the Great Oak Library, covering the branches in a blanket of white. Inside, Ellie the Elephant sat by the crackling fire, her trunk curled around a heavy, leather-bound book. 'Tonight is the night,' she whispered to herself. Outside, the village was alive with activity. A faint, jingle-bell sound echoed through the crisp air, and the smell of toasted chestnuts drifted through the open window. Ellie knew that a Christmas story needed three things: a magical setting, an unexpected visitor, and a sense of warm, fuzzy cheer.

Word bank: shimmering · enchanted · festive · clatter · glistening · wonderment · cosy · twinkling

1. Identify two expanded noun phrases in the first paragraph. How do these adjectives help the reader imagine the setting? (2 marks)

2. Find a fronted adverbial in the text. Why might an author choose to start a sentence with a fronted adverbial? (2 marks)

3. Ellie believes a Christmas story needs an 'unexpected visitor'. If you were writing a story, who or what would visit the library and why? (2 marks)

4. Look at the word 'wonderment'. Can you find a synonym for this word that fits the festive theme? (1 mark)

5. Write a short sentence about the snowy village using one word from the word bank and a fronted adverbial. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw the scene inside the Great Oak Library, including Ellie the Elephant reading by the fireplace and the snowy view through the window.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph (4-6 sentences) describing a magical object that Ellie might find hidden inside her Christmas storybook. Use at least two fronted adverbials.