

A Snowy Surprise at the Library

Learning objective: To practise descriptive writing techniques, including expanded noun phrases and fronted adverbials, to write a festive short story.

Read the story below about Pip the bookworm and answer the questions. Focus on how the author uses adjectives to create a festive atmosphere.

The library was quiet until Pip the bookworm noticed something peculiar. Outside the window, the garden was covered in a thick, white blanket of snow. A single, shimmering star hung in the midnight sky. Pip grabbed his tiny woollen scarf and crawled to the glass. In the corner of the room, a tall, green fir tree stood decorated with twinkling lights that hummed with a soft, warm glow. It was the most delightful Christmas Eve the library had ever seen. Pip settled into a pile of books, feeling cosy and content as he waited for the morning.

Word bank: shimmering · festive · frosty · delightful · huddled · cosy · twinkling

1. What does the author compare the snow to in the second sentence? Why is this a good description? (2 marks)

2. Find and copy two adjectives from the text that describe the Christmas tree. (2 marks)

3. Pip is a bookworm. Based on the text, why do you think he chose to sit in a 'pile of books'? (2 marks)

4. Write a sentence using a fronted adverbial to describe what Pip might see when he looks out of the window again. (3 marks)

5. How does the author make the library sound like a welcoming place to be? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw what Pip sees outside the library window, including the shimmering star and the snowy garden.



Extension challenge: Write a diary entry from Pip's perspective about what he hopes to find inside the books he is sitting on during Christmas Day.