

A Magical Winter's Eve: Creative Writing Word Mat

Learning objective: To use adventurous vocabulary and descriptive language to write a festive winter story.

Read the passage below and use the Word Mat to help you write a festive story. Focus on using expanded noun phrases and fronted adverbials to make your writing sparkle!

The village of Oakhaven was draped in a blanket of pristine, white snow. Above, the sky was a deep shade of velvet indigo, illuminated by a thousand twinkling stars. Max the monkey sat by the window, his breath creating a tiny, circular fog on the glass as he watched the glowing lanterns sway in the night breeze. Everything felt hushed and expectant, as if the world were holding its breath for something truly spectacular to happen. Within the warmth of the cottage, the scent of cinnamon and pine needles filled the air, and a fire crackled with a rhythmic, comforting sound.

Word bank: glistening · frosty · twinkling · festive · enchanting · amber · shimmering · hushed · cosy · rhythmic · crystalline · melodious · glowing · spectacular · whimsical

1. Find and copy two adjectives from the passage that describe the snow or the sky. (2 marks)

2. Why does the author describe the village as being 'hushed'? Use evidence from the text to explain your answer. (2 marks)

3. Max is watching from a window. If you were in the village, what is one thing you might hear or smell? Use a word from the Word Mat to describe it. (2 marks)

4. Identify one fronted adverbial used in the passage to help set the scene. (1 mark)

5. Write a sentence of your own describing a Christmas decoration, using at least two words from the Word Mat. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene from Oakhaven village, including a glowing lantern, a frosty tree, and a sky filled with twinkling stars.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph describing a mysterious gift found under a tree. Can you include a simile and an exclamation to show excitement?