

Creative Writing with Pip the Bookworm

Learning objective: To improve descriptive writing by using fronted adverbials, expanded noun phrases, and show-don't-tell techniques.

Read the short story passage below written by Pip. Use the word bank to help you answer the questions about how Pip uses language to create a vivid picture for the reader.

In the heart of the ancient, whispering forest, Pip adjusted his tiny spectacles. He felt a shiver run down his many green segments. His heart hammered like a drum against his ribs. The giant, emerald-coloured leaves swayed gently above him, blocking out the golden sunlight. Suddenly, a mysterious rustle came from the damp, dark bushes nearby. Pip held his breath, his eyes wide and unblinking.

Word bank: Fronted adverbial · Expanded noun phrase · Show-don't-tell · Adjective · Adverb

1. Find an example of a fronted adverbial in the first paragraph. Why does the author use it at the start of the sentence? (2 marks)

2. Identify an expanded noun phrase used to describe the forest or the leaves. How does this help the reader imagine the setting? (2 marks)

3. Look at the sentence 'His heart hammered like a drum against his ribs.' Instead of saying Pip was scared, how does this sentence show the reader his feelings? (2 marks)

4. Find two adjectives used in the passage to describe the bushes. Why do you think the author chose these specific words? (2 marks)

5. Write your own sentence about a mystery object using at least one fronted adverbial and one expanded noun phrase. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Pip the caterpillar standing in the forest as described in the passage. Make sure to include the giant emerald-coloured leaves and the mysterious bushes.



Extension challenge: Choose an emotion (e.g., excitement, curiosity, or sadness) and write a short paragraph describing a character experiencing it. You must 'show' the emotion using physical actions rather than naming the emotion directly.