

Creative Writing Adventure: The Secret Garden of Whispers

Learning objective: To use fronted adverbials and expanded noun phrases to create a vivid, descriptive setting.

Read the passage below about Nova the owl's latest discovery. Then, answer the questions to help you build your own story. Remember to use your best handwriting and check your spellings.

Nova the owl flew silently over the edge of the forest, her golden eyes scanning the ground. Below her lay a hidden glade that did not appear on any of her star charts. The trees here were not like the ones in the main woods; their bark was silver and glowed softly under the moonlight. As Nova landed on a low, mossy branch, the leaves began to hum a gentle, musical tune. In the centre of the clearing sat a fountain carved from smooth, white stone, where the water sparkled like liquid diamonds.

Word bank: mysterious · shimmering · enchanted · rustling · ancient · twinkling · magnificent

1. Find and copy one expanded noun phrase from the text that describes the fountain. (1 mark)

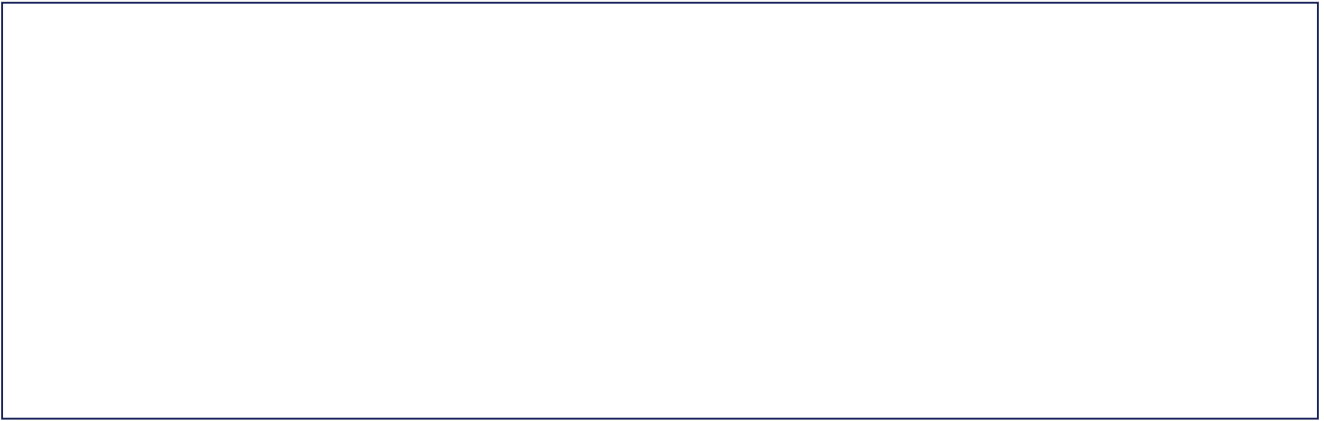
2. Nova notices the trees are different. List two adjectives used in the text to describe the trees. (2 marks)

3. Write a sentence describing what might be hidden inside the silver trees, using a fronted adverbial (e.g., 'High above the ground, ...'). (2 marks)

4. Why do you think the author chose to describe the water as 'liquid diamonds'? How does this make you feel about the glade? (2 marks)

5. If you were exploring this glade with Nova, which one of your senses would you use the most? Explain why. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw your own version of the Secret Garden of Whispers. Include the silver trees, the glowing fountain, and make sure to draw Nova the owl perched somewhere in your scene.



Extension challenge: Imagine a magical creature lives in this glade. Write a short paragraph (3-4 sentences) describing what it looks like, making sure to include at least two adjectives and one simile.