

Adventures in the Whispering Woods

Learning objective: To use expanded noun phrases and powerful verbs to create a descriptive setting.

Read the short story below about Max the monkey exploring the forest. Think about the sensory details used, then complete the questions to practise your own descriptive writing skills.

Max the monkey swung through the canopy of the Whispering Woods. Above him, the sun filtered through the emerald leaves, creating dancing patterns on the forest floor. He paused on a sturdy branch to listen. He could hear the soft, rhythmic rustling of hidden creatures in the undergrowth. Ahead, a stream sparkled like scattered diamonds, winding its way through the ancient, moss-covered trees. Max felt excited; he knew this was the perfect place to start a new adventure.

Word bank: shimmering · tangled · whispering · emerald · ancient · glimmering · rustling · enchanted

1. Find and copy one expanded noun phrase from the passage that describes the trees. (2 marks)

2. Max thinks the stream looks like 'scattered diamonds'. What is this type of descriptive comparison called, and why does it help the reader? (2 marks)

3. Write a sentence describing a new creature that Max might find in the woods. Try to use at least one word from the word bank. (2 marks)

4. Which sense does the author focus on when describing the undergrowth? Quote the evidence from the text. (2 marks)

5. If Max wanted to buy a map of the Whispering Woods from a forest guide, it would cost £4.50. If he pays with a £10 note, how much change would he receive? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw your own version of the Whispering Woods, including the shimmering stream and the ancient trees Max discovered.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph (3-4 sentences) describing what happens when Max follows the stream to its secret hidden cave. Use a range of adjectives and a fronted adverbial to start one of your sentences.