

Adventures in the Whispering Woods

Learning objective: To identify and explain the effect of similes, metaphors, and personification in a narrative text.

Read the story about Pip the caterpillar's journey through the woods. Then, answer the questions below to show your understanding of figurative language.

Pip the caterpillar crawled through the Whispering Woods. The trees were ancient giants, their gnarled branches stretching out like skeletal fingers to tickle the clouds. As Pip moved, the wind sang a soft lullaby, whispering secrets to the swaying ferns. The forest floor was a velvet carpet of moss, cushioned and cool beneath Pip's tiny feet. Suddenly, a bright butterfly fluttered past. Pip felt as brave as a lion, ready to explore the unknown path ahead. Every leaf seemed to be watching, their green eyes peeking from the shadows, while the stream nearby giggled as it tumbled over the smooth, grey stones.

Word bank: Simile · Metaphor · Personification · Figurative · Imagery

1. Find a simile in the text that describes the branches. Explain what this tells us about the shape of the trees. (2 marks)

2. The author says, 'The forest floor was a velvet carpet of moss.' Is this a simile or a metaphor? What does this tell you about how the moss felt? (2 marks)

3. Identify one example of personification in the text. Why has the author chosen to give the wind or the stream human actions? (2 marks)

4. Pip feels 'as brave as a lion'. Why is this a good way to describe how a tiny caterpillar feels? (1 mark)

5. Look at the phrase 'their green eyes peeking from the shadows'. What do you think the 'green eyes' actually are? (1 mark)

Draw: Draw your own version of the Whispering Woods. Include the 'giant' trees, the 'velvet' moss, and the stream that 'giggles'.



Extension challenge: Write two of your own sentences about a thunderstorm. In the first, use a simile to describe the rain. In the second, use personification to describe the thunder.