

# The Great Forest Journal: A Handwriting Assessment

*Learning objective: To use joined-up handwriting accurately, ensuring consistent size and spacing, and maintaining a regular flow when writing descriptive prose.*

Read the passage below. Copy the text onto lined paper using your best joined-up handwriting. Ensure that your ascenders (like b, d, h) and descenders (like g, j, p) are correctly sized and positioned. After copying, answer the questions that follow.

Nova the owl perched upon the ancient oak tree. The moon cast a shimmering silver light over the forest floor. Below, Max the monkey was busy counting golden acorns, while Pip the caterpillar read a tiny book by the glow of a firefly. It was a magnificent night for a new adventure. They waited for the morning sun to reveal their next grand discovery.

*Word bank: magnificent · whispering · adventure · shimmering · glittering · discovery*

**1. Copy the first sentence of the passage in your neatest, joined-up handwriting. Pay close attention to the heights of your capital letters and the loops of your letters. (3 marks)**

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**2. Identify two words from the passage that contain descenders (letters that go below the line). Explain why your handwriting must be precise when writing these letters. (2 marks)**

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**3. Look at the word 'magnificent'. Write it down twice. Ensure the 'f' loop and the 't' stem are both clearly formed and correctly sized. (2 marks)**

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**4. Why is it important to keep consistent spacing between your words, especially when writing in a journal or a storybook? (2 marks)**

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**5. Rewrite this phrase in your best cursive style: 'The forest is alive with secrets.' Ensure your lead-in strokes from one letter to the next are smooth and connected. (2 marks)**

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**Draw:** Draw a picture of Nova the owl looking down at the forest floor at night. In the corner of your drawing, write a label for the scene using your neatest handwriting.



*Extension challenge: Imagine you have joined Nova and her friends on their adventure. Write three original sentences about what you see in the forest, ensuring all your letters are joined and your spacing is even.*