

The Art of Elegant Handwriting

Learning objective: To develop reading comprehension skills while learning about the importance of consistent letter formation, joins, and presentation.

Read the passage about handwriting carefully, then answer the questions that follow in full sentences.

Handwriting is much more than just putting ink on paper; it is a way of sharing your thoughts with the world. Pip the caterpillar spends hours every day practising her handwriting. She knows that for her letters to be legible, she must ensure they are all the same size and lean at the same angle. When Pip writes, she focuses on the 'ascenders'—the tall parts of letters like 'h', 'l', and 't'—and makes sure they reach the top line clearly. She is also careful with 'descenders', the parts of letters like 'g', 'j', and 'y' that dip below the baseline. By using a flowing, cursive style, Pip can write her favourite poems faster and more neatly. Max the monkey, however, prefers to think of handwriting as a geometric puzzle. He says that if you keep your spacing consistent, your writing looks like a piece of art. Whether you are writing a story, a shopping list, or a letter to a friend, clear presentation shows the reader that you care about your words.

Word bank: legible · cursive · ascender · descender · consistent · presentation · fluency

1. Why does Pip the caterpillar think it is important to pay attention to the size and angle of her letters? (2 marks)

2. Look at the words 'ascenders' and 'descenders'. Based on the text, what is the difference between these two types of letter parts? (2 marks)

3. How does Max the monkey's view of handwriting differ from Pip's view? (2 marks)

4. According to the passage, what are two benefits of using a cursive writing style? (2 marks)

5. Why does the author suggest that clear presentation is important when writing for others? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a small piece of parchment showing a beautifully written poem. Include fancy borders and ensure the letters look neat and joined together.



Extension challenge: Choose a short poem of four lines. Copy it out twice: once in your neatest print handwriting, and once in your best joined cursive script. Compare the two and write one sentence explaining which one was easier to write quickly.