

Mastering Paragraphs with Pip the Bookworm

Learning objective: To understand how to organise writing into paragraphs around a theme and use them to structure a narrative.

Read the story of Pip's adventure in the library below. Then, answer the questions to show how well you understand the purpose of paragraphs.

Pip the caterpillar spent his mornings crawling across the dusty shelves of the Great Library. He loved the smell of old paper and the feeling of adventure that lived between the covers of every book. Today, Pip was on a mission to find a story about a dragon who preferred eating glittery pebbles to hunting knights. He moved slowly, wiggling over heavy encyclopaedias and under tiny fairy-tale volumes until he reached the very top shelf.

Suddenly, the library windows flew open with a loud creak. A gust of wind rushed into the room, swirling colourful bookmarks into the air like paper confetti. Pip held on tight to a leather-bound history book as the breeze whistled past. He realised that even a quiet library could become a whirlwind of excitement when the weather decided to join in. Once the wind died down, Pip felt quite dizzy, but he was more determined than ever to find his special book.

Word bank: theme · structure · narrative · paragraph · topic · shift

1. The passage is split into two paragraphs. What is the main theme of the first paragraph? (2 marks)

2. What event causes the 'shift' in the story that leads to the start of the second paragraph? (2 marks)

3. Why is it helpful for a reader that the author started a new paragraph when the wind blew the windows open? (2 marks)

4. If Pip found the book and decided to read it, should this be a new paragraph? Explain why. (2 marks)

5. Write a short sentence that could serve as a 'topic sentence' to start a brand new third paragraph about Pip finishing his adventure. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Pip the caterpillar holding onto the leather-bound book while the bookmarks swirl around him like confetti.



Extension challenge: Imagine Pip returns home to his leaf. Write a new, one-paragraph summary of his journey back, focusing only on the description of his walk home.