

Pip's Phonic Forest Adventure

Learning objective: To recognise and use alternative graphemes for the 'ai' sound (ai, ay, a-e, ei, eigh) within Year 4 spelling patterns.

Read the story below about Pip the caterpillar. Identify the words that contain the 'ai' sound. Complete the questions to show how well you can spot and spell these patterns.

Pip the caterpillar was having a grand day in the garden. The sun was shining, and he decided to play a game near the old oak tree. He saw a grey snail sliding slowly along a wet leaf. 'What a lovely day!' chirped Pip. Suddenly, a light rain began to fall. Pip felt a faint chill, so he hid under a wide leaf to stay dry. He watched a butterfly glide through the air with great grace. When the clouds cleared, Pip saw the weight of a heavy raindrop bend a blade of grass. He felt happy to be safe and sound in his leafy home.

Word bank: rain · play · cake · eight · veil · tray · stray · weight · faint · snake

1. Find and list three words from the passage that use the 'ai' sound, but have different spellings. (3 marks)

2. Why did Pip hide under a wide leaf? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (2 marks)

3. Can you spot the word in the passage that uses the 'eigh' spelling pattern for the 'ai' sound? (1 mark)

4. Write a new sentence about Pip using one of the words from the word bank that contains the 'a-e' split digraph. (2 marks)

5. Why do you think the author chose to describe the snail as 'grey'? Does the colour add to the mood of the story? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw Pip the caterpillar hiding under a leaf while it rains, and label the things in your picture that have the 'ai' sound in their name.



Extension challenge: Choose two words from the 'ai' sound family that sound the same but are spelled differently (homophones). Write a short definition for each to prove you know the difference!