

An Afternoon in the Starlight Library

Learning objective: To retrieve information from a text and use evidence to support an answer.

Read the story about Nova the owl below, then answer the questions. Finally, complete the drawing task at the bottom of the page.

Nova the barn owl lived in the Great Oak Observatory, a treehouse filled with thousands of dusty books. Every night, when the moon hung like a silver coin in the sky, Nova polished her brass telescope. She loved to track the movement of the stars and record their positions in her leather-bound diary. One chilly Tuesday, she discovered a forgotten manuscript tucked behind a stack of maps. It was written by an ancient explorer and contained a secret map to the 'Valley of Whispering Willows'. Nova felt a flutter of excitement in her chest. She grabbed her satchel, packed a flask of honey-tea, and prepared to start a new adventure. She knew that reading the stars would help her find the way, even in the darkest part of the forest.

Word bank: constellation · telescope · manuscript · observatory · luminous

1. Where does Nova live and what is special about her home? (2 marks)

2. What does Nova use to help her track the movement of the stars? (1 mark)

3. Why did Nova feel a 'flutter of excitement' when she found the manuscript? (2 marks)

4. What items did Nova pack in her satchel before she left? (1 mark)

5. In your own words, why is Nova a good character to go on an adventure to find a secret valley? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw the 'Great Oak Observatory' based on the description in the story. Make sure to include the brass telescope and the stack of maps mentioned in the text.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are Nova. Write a short diary entry (3-4 sentences) describing what you saw through your telescope before you found the secret map.