

The Storyteller's Toolkit with Pip

Learning objective: To identify and use key narrative devices, including fronted adverbials and expanded noun phrases, to enhance creative writing.

Read the short story below, written by Pip the bookworm. Look for the descriptive language and the ways the setting is introduced. Then, answer the questions to show what you have discovered about how stories are built.

In the heart of the ancient, whispering forest, Leo the lion sat upon a mossy stone. The golden sun dipped low, painting the sky in shades of bruised purple and fiery orange. Leo sighed, his thick, golden mane rustling in the cool evening breeze. He was waiting for his friends to arrive for their weekly poetry club. Suddenly, a rustle in the dense bushes made his ears twitch. He hoped it was Nova, who always brought the most interesting stories from the stars above.

Word bank: Fronted adverbial · Expanded noun phrase · Setting · Characterisation · Chronological · Atmosphere

1. Find and copy an example of an expanded noun phrase used to describe the forest or the sky. (2 marks)

2. Identify the fronted adverbial used at the beginning of the first sentence. Why do you think the author chose to start the story this way? (2 marks)

3. Based on the passage, what can you infer about Leo's personality? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (2 marks)

4. If you were to continue this story, what might happen next? Write two sentences using a new fronted adverbial. (3 marks)

5. Why does the author use the phrase 'bruised purple' to describe the sky? What kind of mood does this create for the reader? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of the scene described by Pip, making sure to include the mossy stone, the colourful sunset, and the dense bushes where the friends are hiding.



Extension challenge: Rewrite the first paragraph of the passage, but change the setting from a forest to a busy marketplace. How does this change the atmosphere of the story?