

Adventures in Adjectives: Word Collecting with Pip

Learning objective: To use expanded noun phrases and adventurous vocabulary to improve descriptive writing.

Read the story below about Pip the caterpillar's garden adventure. Look for the underlined words and think about how they make the scene more interesting. Then, complete the questions to show off your own vocabulary skills!

Pip the caterpillar crawled along a shimmering leaf. He looked up at the colossal oak tree that stood in the centre of the meadow. Around him, vibrant flowers swayed in the gentle breeze, releasing a fragrant scent into the air. Pip loved collecting new words, and today he felt like he was living in a magnificent storybook.

Word bank: shimmering · colossal · vibrant · fragrant · dazzling · gentle · ancient · magnificent

1. Pip describes the oak tree as 'colossal'. What does this word tell us about the size of the tree? (2 marks)

2. Find a word in the passage that means 'bright and colourful'. (1 mark)

3. If you were writing about a storm instead of a sunny day, which word from the word bank would you replace 'gentle' with? Explain why. (2 marks)

4. Rewrite this sentence to make it more descriptive: 'The bee flew over the grass.' Use at least one adjective from the word bank. (2 marks)

5. Why do you think Pip enjoys collecting words? Use evidence from the passage to support your answer. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of the 'magnificent' meadow Pip is exploring. Label three items in your drawing using an expanded noun phrase (e.g., 'The shimmering, green leaf').



Extension challenge: Choose one object in your classroom or at home. Write three sentences about it, but you are not allowed to use the words 'nice', 'good', or 'big'. Use a thesaurus or your own brain to find much more exciting vocabulary!