

The Rainforest



The blazing sun streamed down through the wide, waxy leaves, painting patterns of shadows and light across the rainforest floor. All kinds of bugs and insects fluttered in the beams of light, appearing almost like tiny, dancing fairies. They flitted back and forth, just out of reach of the tongues of the lizards that scuttled silently along the branches.

The rainforest had its own perfect yet chaotic soundtrack – amongst the rustling of the leaves and the chirping of the minibeasts came the calls of exotic birds and the hoots of excitable monkeys. Somewhere nearby, a stream trickled by, the babbling water adding an extra layer to the soundtrack, like the gentle shaking of a tambourine. It seemed as if the trees themselves hummed happily, abuzz with life as they swayed slowly in the breeze.

Rich aromas of the fruits and berries on their branches mixed with the pungent perfume from the colourful flowers to create a strange, dizzying scent. It was so strong, he could almost taste the sweetness of it, chasing away the bitterness of the cacao beans he had nibbled on earlier.

Underfoot, the ground was soft, like stepping into melted ice cream. The only thing to stop his feet from sliding was the subway map tangle of roots and vines that crisscrossed the surface. The trees towered above, so tall that their tops were almost out of sight, their branches stretching towards the sky.

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Questions

1

What time of day do you think this text is describing?

morning

midday

evening

midnight

2

Draw lines to match each writing technique to its example.

personification

scuttled silently

simile

like tiny, dancing fairies

metaphor

the trees themselves hummed

alliteration

subway map tangle

3

Find examples in the text to complete this table.

something he can see	
something he can hear	
something he can smell	
something he can taste	
something he can feel	

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The rainforest had its own perfect yet chaotic soundtrack.

4

What do you think the writer means when they describe the soundtrack as **perfect yet chaotic**?

Rich aromas of the fruits and berries on their branches mixed with the pungent perfume from the colourful flowers...

5

Which of these words is a synonym for **pungent**?

- ☐ plain
- ☐ strong
- ☐ awful

6

Find and write down at least one verb that matches to each of these nouns in the text. The first one has been done for you.

bugs	fluttered, danced, flitted
sun	
stream	
trees	

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7

What hints does the writer give that suggest the character is not used to being in the rainforest?

8

What other things could the writer have described in the rainforest?

9

Tick these statements to show if they are true or false.

	true	false
The snakes were trying to catch the bugs.		
The character heard the roar of a tiger.		
It was a sunny day.		

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It seemed as if the trees themselves hummed happily, abuzz with life as they swayed slowly in the breeze.

10

Why do you think the trees seemed like they were buzzing?
