

Detective Skills: Learning to Infer

Learning objective: To use clues from the text and my own knowledge to make inferences about characters and settings.

Read the story about Pip and Leo carefully. Use the evidence in the text to answer the questions. Remember, an inference is like being a detective—you use clues to figure out something the author hasn't told you directly!

Pip the caterpillar and Leo the lion were walking through the Whispering Woods. The sky had turned a heavy, charcoal grey, and a sudden, chilly breeze whipped through the trees, making the leaves dance wildly. Pip clutched his favourite book tightly to his chest and looked up at the clouds with a worried expression. Leo stopped walking and sniffed the air, his mane tossing in the wind. He noticed a small, dry cave tucked behind some jagged rocks and pointed towards it, gesturing for Pip to follow him quickly.

Word bank: evidence · clues · inference · predict · atmosphere

1. How is the weather changing in the story? Which words tell you this? (2 marks)

2. How is Pip feeling about the weather? How do you know? (2 marks)

3. Why do you think Leo pointed towards the cave? (2 marks)

4. What do you think will happen if Pip and Leo do not get to the cave in time? (2 marks)

5. Based on the text, do you think Leo is a caring friend? Explain your answer using evidence. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of the Whispering Woods. Make sure to include the 'charcoal grey' sky and the 'jagged rocks' mentioned in the story.



Extension challenge: Write two sentences describing what Pip and Leo might do once they are safely inside the cave. What clues from the story help you decide this?