

The Secret Map

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

Read the story carefully. Some answers can be found directly in the text, while others require you to be a detective and use clues to figure out what is happening.

Max the monkey sat in the middle of the cluttered attic, surrounded by dusty trunks and old blankets. He held a yellowed piece of parchment that felt rough between his fingers. His heart hammered against his ribs as he traced a red X marked deep in the Whispering Woods. Outside, the sky had turned a bruised purple, and a sudden chill swept through the room, making Max shiver. He glanced at the ticking clock; it was almost dinner time.

Max slowly pulled on his thickest boots and wrapped a woolly scarf tightly around his neck. He looked at the heavy wooden door and hesitated for a moment, his eyes wide. Then, with a determined grin, he gripped the map tightly and crept downstairs, making sure not to make a sound. He didn't want anyone to know about his plan. As he stepped outside, the first drops of rain began to fall, splashing onto the dry pavement.

Word bank: cluttered · hesitated · shivered · mysterious · discover

1. Where is Max at the beginning of the story? (1 mark)

2. What colour is the sky outside? (1 mark)

3. How is Max feeling about his discovery? Give two clues from the text to support your answer. (2 marks)

4. What is the weather like, and how do you know this? (2 marks)

5. Do you think Max is being brave or reckless? Explain your answer using evidence from the story. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max in the attic. Include the dusty trunks, the yellowed map with the red X, and the purple sky visible through a window.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph describing what Max finds when he finally reaches the red X in the Whispering Woods.