

Detective Pip's Inference Investigation

Learning objective: To develop the ability to infer meaning from a text by identifying clues about characters' feelings, actions, and settings.

Read the short story below, then answer the questions. Remember, an inference isn't explicitly written; you must use the clues in the text to solve the mystery!

Pip the caterpillar sat on a large, damp oak leaf. He pulled his knitted woolly scarf tighter around his neck and shivered as a heavy droplet of water landed on his nose. Looking up, he saw the sky was a deep shade of slate grey, and the birds had all vanished into the hollows of the trees. Pip sighed, tucked his book under his leaf-shelter, and retreated into his cosy burrow.

Word bank: Inference · Evidence · Clue · Implicit · Deduce · Atmosphere

1. 1. What is the weather like in the passage? A) Sunny B) Windy C) Rainy* D) Snowy (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: Pip is excited to be outside. (1 mark)

3. 3. Which piece of evidence suggests Pip is feeling cold? (1 word) (1 mark)

4. 4. Why have the birds vanished? A) They are migrating B) They are hiding from the rain* C) They are playing hide-and-seek D) They are looking for worms (1 mark)

5. 5. What time of day might it be, based on the grey sky and the feeling of the passage? (1 word) (1 mark)

6. 6. True or False: Pip is a prepared character who likes to stay dry. (1 mark)

7. 7. How can you tell that Pip enjoys reading? A) He mentions his teacher B) He has a library card C) He tucks his book away carefully* D) He is wearing a scarf (1 mark)

8. 8. What is the 'slate grey' sky a sign of? (1 word) (1 mark)

9. 9. Is the mood of the passage happy or gloomy? (1 word) (1 mark)

10. 10. Which word best describes Pip's home? A) A palace B) A burrow* C) A skyscraper D) A shop (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a picture of Pip's cosy burrow. Include at least three items that show Pip is a book-loving caterpillar, such as tiny bookshelves made of twigs or a reading lamp made from a glowing mushroom.



Extension challenge: Explain why the author chose to describe the sky as 'slate grey' instead of just 'grey'. What atmosphere does this create? Compare and contrast how Pip might act if it were a hot, sunny day. Justify your answer using examples from the text. What might happen if Pip forgot his book outside during the storm?