

Investigating Inference: The Mystery of the Missing Map

Learning objective: To develop the skill of inference by using clues and prior knowledge to interpret implicit information in a text.

Read each scenario carefully. Use your detective skills to infer what is happening, even though the text does not state the answer directly. Use evidence from the sentences to justify your reasoning.

Max the monkey sat at his desk, his brow furrowed as he stared at the blank grid on his maths homework. He glanced at the clock; its hands were pointing to 4:55 pm. Suddenly, he heard a loud, rhythmic tapping coming from the window. Pip the caterpillar was shivering on the windowsill, his tiny book-bag dripping with water. Max quickly pushed his chair back, grabbed a fluffy towel from the cupboard, and hurried towards the glass.

Word bank: Infer · Evidence · Implicit · Deduction · Context · Clue · Intention · Atmosphere

1. What is the weather like outside? Explain how you know this using evidence from the text. (2 marks)

2. Why was Max's brow 'furrowed'? What does this suggest about how he was feeling? (2 marks)

3. Infer the relationship between Max and Pip. Justify your answer by referring to Max's actions. (3 marks)

4. Based on the time and the state of the characters, what might have just happened before Pip arrived at the window? (2 marks)

5. Compare and contrast how Max feels about his maths homework versus how he feels when he sees Pip. Use vocabulary from the word bank to explain your deduction. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene showing what the environment outside the window looks like. Include at least three visual clues that confirm your inference about the weather.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are Pip. Write a short diary entry (50-80 words) describing your journey to Max's house. Use 'show, don't tell' techniques so that the reader can infer you are tired and cold without you ever using those specific words.