

Max's Market Mystery: A Reading Comprehension Challenge

Learning objective: To analyse inference, identify word choices, and justify interpretations within a narrative context for Year 4.

Read the following scenario featuring Max the monkey and answer the questions below. Use your detective skills to look beyond the literal meaning of the text.

Max the monkey stood in the centre of the bustling village market, his brow furrowed in deep concentration. He had exactly £10.00 to spend on fresh fruit for the BookFlik picnic. He clutched his list tightly: three bunches of bananas at £1.20 each, a crate of apples for £2.50, and a basket of strawberries for £3.00. Max tapped his chin, his eyes darting between the price tags and his notebook. He muttered, 'If I purchase these, will I have enough for the golden pears?' The fruit seller, a jolly badger wearing a striped apron, watched with an amused twinkle in his eye. Max took a deep breath, performed a rapid mental calculation, and realised his total was just under his budget. He smiled, his tail swishing with excitement, and handed over his money with a flourish.

Word bank: enthusiastic · meticulous · baffled · deduction · calculate · investigate

1. Why might Max have a 'furrowed brow' at the beginning of the passage? What does this suggest about his feelings? (2 marks)

2. Max is described as having a 'meticulous' approach to his shopping. Use evidence from the text to justify this description. (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast how Max feels at the start of the passage versus the end. What caused this change? (3 marks)

4. What might happen if the price of the apples increased by £1.00? Explain how this would affect Max's decision-making process. (2 marks)

5. Why did the fruit seller have an 'amused twinkle' in his eye while watching Max? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a detailed scene of the market stall. Include Max with his notebook, the jolly badger seller, and label the fruit items with their correct prices in pounds and pence.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are Max. Write a short diary entry explaining how you felt once you realised you had enough money for the golden pears. Use at least two words from the word bank in your writing.