

Detective Max: The Case of the Hidden Clues

Learning objective: To use clues from a text to make inferences about a character's feelings and actions.

Max the monkey has found five mysterious notes left by a secret visitor! He can't see the visitor, but he can use the clues in the notes to figure out what is happening. For each clue, write down what you can 'infer' (what you think is happening) and explain which words in the text gave you that answer.

1. Clue 1: 'The visitor left a trail of wet footprints and a dripping yellow raincoat on the porch.' How is the weather outside? How do you know? (2 marks)

2. Clue 2: 'The visitor was breathing heavily and their face was bright red as they stepped through the door.' What has the visitor been doing just before they arrived? How do you know? (2 marks)

3. Clue 3: 'The visitor clutched a small, wrapped box with a shiny ribbon and a nervous smile on their face.' How is the visitor feeling? Which words tell you this? (2 marks)

4. Clue 4: 'The visitor looked at the clock and gasped, quickly checking their watch every two seconds.' Why is the visitor looking at the clock? What can you infer about their schedule? (2 marks)

5. Clue 5: 'As the visitor spoke, they kept glancing at the door and whispering so no one else could hear.' Do you think the visitor wants to be seen? Why do you think that? (2 marks)

Draw: Based on all the clues you have analyzed, draw a picture of what you think the secret visitor looks like!

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a student to draw a picture of the secret visitor based on the clues provided.

Extension challenge: Can you write your own 'mystery clue' for Max? Describe a character's actions or appearance without saying who they are or how they feel, and see if a partner can make an inference!