

Detective Skills: Mastering Inference

Learning objective: To understand and apply the skill of inference by using clues from a text and prior knowledge to understand things that are not explicitly stated.

Inference is like being a detective! It means using 'clues' (what the text says) and 'schema' (what you already know) to figure out a hidden meaning. Read the short scenarios and use your detective skills to answer the questions.

N/A

Word bank: clue · evidence · schema · deduce · imply

1. Max the monkey walked into the classroom dripping wet, holding a broken umbrella and shaking his head. What can you infer about the weather outside? Explain how you know. (2 marks)

2. Nova the owl looked at the clock and gasped. She quickly grabbed her telescope, put on her coat, and ran out the door without eating her breakfast. Why is Nova in a hurry? (2 marks)

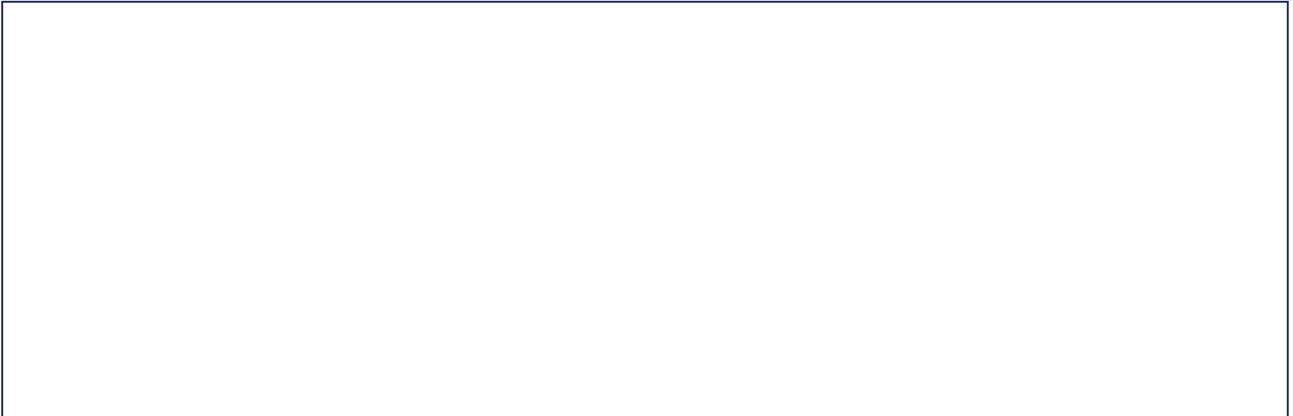
3. Kit the fox stared at the computer screen. He sighed loudly, slumped his shoulders, and put his head in his paws. How is Kit feeling? What evidence from the text tells you this? (2 marks)

4. Leo the lion walked into the room carrying a large, colorful cake with candles on top and a brightly wrapped gift. What is happening today? (1 mark)

5. Zara the zebra was wearing a thick woolly hat, a scarf, and heavy boots. She was shivering as she stepped outside. What season do you think it is? (1 mark)

6. A child walks into a store and asks, 'How much for the biggest comic book, please?' The shopkeeper says it costs £4.50. The child looks in their pocket, sees only two £1 coins and a 20p coin, and sighs. Can the child afford the comic? Why not? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Pip the caterpillar. Give him a clue in his hand or a look on his face that tells us he has just found a secret treasure, without drawing the treasure itself!



Extension challenge: Write your own two-sentence scenario where you describe a character's actions but NOT their emotions. Swap with a partner to see if they can infer how the character is feeling.