

Detective Work with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To make inferences from a text by using clues to understand how a character is feeling.

Read the short story about Max. Look for clues in the text that tell you how Max is feeling, even if the story doesn't say it directly. Write your answers in full sentences.

Max the monkey sat at his wooden desk, tapping his chin with a pencil. He had a pile of shiny 10p coins in front of him. He counted them once, then twice, but his eyebrows were pulled together and he let out a long sigh. He looked at the price tag on the toy shop window across the street, which read £2.00. Max checked his pocket, but it was empty. He picked up his pencil again and began to scribble a list of chores he could do to earn the rest of the money.

Word bank: excited · puzzled · clue · inference · feeling · determined

1. How is Max feeling when he looks at the coins and the price tag? Use a clue from the text to explain why. (2 marks)

2. What tells you that Max is having trouble with his maths? Find the sentence that shows this. (2 marks)

3. Why do you think Max is making a list of chores? (2 marks)

4. How much more money does Max need if he only has 80p in coins? (2 marks)

5. At the end of the story, is Max giving up or trying to solve his problem? How do you know? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the monkey working hard at his desk. Show his 'determined' face and his list of chores.



Extension challenge: Write two sentences about a time you felt determined to reach a goal, just like Max!