

Detective Work: Mastering Inference with Max and Zara

Learning objective: To develop the skill of inference by using clues from a text to understand a character's feelings and actions.

Read the scenarios carefully. Use the clues provided and your own knowledge to infer what is happening. Remember, inference is like being a detective—you have to look for the evidence!

Max the monkey is sitting at his desk. He is tapping his pencil rhythmically on the wood. He looks at his maths worksheet, sighs loudly, and runs his fingers through his fur. Beside him, Zara the zebra is carefully colouring her art project. She notices Max and slides a spare rubber over to his side of the table without saying a word. Max gives her a small, tight-lipped smile and immediately starts erasing a mistake.

Word bank: clue · evidence · inference · feelings · observe · deduce

1. How is Max feeling about his maths worksheet? Use a clue from the text to support your answer. (2 marks)

2. What does Max's action of 'tapping his pencil rhythmically' suggest about his state of mind? (2 marks)

3. Why did Zara slide the rubber over to Max? What does this tell us about Zara's personality? (2 marks)

4. Look at Max's response to Zara. Why is his smile described as 'tight-lipped' instead of a big, happy grin? (2 marks)

5. Based on the passage, what can you infer about the relationship between Max and Zara? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max and Zara working together. Show Max looking relieved now that he has fixed his mistake, and show Zara continuing her colourful art project.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph explaining what might have happened just before this scene that caused Max to feel frustrated with his maths work.