

Max's Market Mystery

Learning objective: To develop inferential reading skills by identifying clues about a character's thoughts and feelings.

Read the passage carefully. Use the evidence in the text to support your answers. Remember to use full sentences.

Max the monkey stood at the edge of the bustling market square, clutching a small, worn leather purse tightly in his palm. He paced back and forth, his brow furrowed as he stared at the chalked prices on the fruit stall. A bunch of bananas was priced at £1.20, while a crate of juicy mangoes cost £2.50. Max checked the contents of his purse for the third time, his ears twitching nervously. He sighed, adjusting his spectacles, and looked at the long queue of shoppers. He walked up to the stall holder, his movements slow and careful. As he reached the front, he didn't immediately ask for the mangoes. Instead, he counted his copper coins again, his lips moving silently as he calculated the total. With a sudden, determined nod, he placed exactly £1.20 on the wooden counter and pointed towards the bananas. He let out a long breath, his shoulders finally relaxing as he gripped his purchase. He walked away from the stall with a quick, rhythmic bounce in his step, no longer checking his purse.

Word bank: meticulous · calculations · hesitation · bountiful · determined

1. How much did the mangoes cost at the market stall? (1 mark) (1 mark)

2. What does Max do with his purse before he reaches the front of the queue? (1 mark) (1 mark)

3. Why was Max feeling nervous while he was waiting in the queue? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (2 marks) (2 marks)

4. What can you infer about Max's feelings once he has bought the bananas? Explain your reasoning. (2 marks) (2 marks)

5. Do you think Max was happy with his decision to buy the bananas instead of the mangoes? Justify your answer. (2 marks) (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene showing Max at the market. Show his expressions changing from nervous to relieved. Include the prices mentioned in the text on the stall sign.



Extension challenge: Imagine Max had £3.00 in his purse instead of his original amount. Write a short paragraph describing how his behaviour at the stall might have changed. Use higher-order vocabulary to describe his confidence and the choices he might have made.