

The Mystery Detective: Character Inference Log

Learning objective: To make and justify inferences using evidence from a text, drawing on character actions, thoughts, and dialogue.

Read the provided story snippet carefully. Your task is to act as a detective and use 'clues' from the text to infer how a character is feeling or why they are behaving in a certain way. Remember: an inference is a conclusion you reach based on evidence rather than what is explicitly stated.

Word bank: cautious · hesitant · determined · evidence · clue · implies · motive · expression · perspective · analysis

1. Identify the character's primary emotion in this scene. Use a specific phrase from the text to support your choice. (2 marks)

2. Explain why the character might have chosen to act in this particular way. What does their action reveal about their personality? (3 marks)

3. Compare the character's outward behaviour (what they do) with their inner thoughts (what they feel). Is there a contradiction? Justify your answer. (3 marks)

4. What might happen if the character changed their mind halfway through the scene? How would this alter the reader's impression of them? (3 marks)

5. Looking at the setting described, how does the atmosphere influence the way the character is reacting? Provide evidence to support your reasoning. (3 marks)

6. Justify the author's choice to keep the character's motivations hidden from the reader until the very end. How does this affect your engagement with the story? (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are Max the monkey. Write a short paragraph explaining a time you felt a strong emotion without using the name of that emotion. Swap with a partner to see if they can infer exactly how you were feeling using only your clues.