

Unlocking the Clues: An Inference Writing Frame

Learning objective: To use evidence from a text to make inferences and justify thoughts about a character's feelings or motives.

Read the opening passage carefully. Use the questions below to help you 'read between the lines' and infer what is happening. Use the word bank to help explain your reasoning.

Max the monkey stared at the pile of tangled string, his brow furrowed and his tail twitching restlessly as he tapped his pencil against his chin.

Word bank: suggests that · implies · reveals · based on · the evidence shows · consequently · furthermore · it seems likely that · in contrast · because

1. How is Max feeling in this moment? Explain your answer using evidence from the passage. (2 marks)

2. What does the phrase 'his tail twitching restlessly' suggest about Max's current state of mind? (2 marks)

3. What might Max be trying to achieve with the string? Justify your answer. (2 marks)

4. Compare and contrast Max's behaviour here with how someone who is feeling calm might act. Explain why you think this. (3 marks)

5. What might happen if Max fails to solve the puzzle of the tangled string? Predict his reaction. (2 marks)

6. If Pip the caterpillar walked into the room, how might Max change his behaviour? Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph describing a new character who enters the room. Do not state their emotions directly; instead, describe their actions and expressions so that a reader must infer how they are feeling.