

Year 5 English: Decoding the Unsaid - An Inference Assessment

Learning objective: To demonstrate the ability to draw inferences such as inferring characters' feelings, thoughts, and motives from their actions, and justifying these with evidence from the text.

Read the passage carefully. Use your detective skills to look for clues, hints, and hidden meanings. Provide evidence from the text to support your answers. Write your responses in full sentences.

Max the monkey sat atop the highest branch of the ancient oak tree, his brow furrowed as he stared at the crumpled map in his paws. Below him, Leo the lion paced back and forth, his tail flicking rhythmically against the dry grass. Leo paused, looked up at the swaying branches, and cleared his throat, though he did not speak. Max carefully folded the map into a tiny square and tucked it into his satchel, then spent a long moment tightening his shoelaces. As he climbed down, he kept his gaze fixed on the ground, avoiding the golden eyes that watched his every move. When he finally reached the bottom, Max offered a small, hesitant smile, but his fingers remained tightly curled around the strap of his bag.

Word bank: deduce · motive · underlying · characterisation · evidence · implication · subtle · perspective

1. How is Max feeling at the start of the passage? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (2 marks)

2. What does Leo's body language suggest about his current state of mind? Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

3. Why might Max be avoiding eye contact with Leo? Justify your answer using clues from the text. (3 marks)

4. Compare and contrast the actions of Max and Leo. What does this tell us about their relationship? (4 marks)

5. The text mentions Max 'tightening his shoelaces' before descending. Why might the author have included this specific detail? (3 marks)

6. Based on the passage, predict what the relationship between the map and the tension between the characters might be. Explain your theory. (3 marks)

7. Extended Writing Task: Write a short paragraph (approximately 80-100 words) from Leo's perspective explaining why he is pacing and what he hopes Max will do next. Ensure your writing reflects Leo's personality. (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene depicting the setting of the ancient oak tree. Include details that reflect the 'tense' atmosphere described in the passage, such as the way the characters are positioned in relation to one another.



Extension challenge: What might happen if Max decided to show Leo the map instead of hiding it? Write a creative dialogue between the two characters where the secret is finally revealed. Total: /25