

Mastering Inference: The Mystery of the Hidden Clues

Learning objective: To make logical inferences from a text by identifying implied meaning through characters' actions, speech, and setting.

Read the opening passage carefully. Use the clues provided by the author to 'read between the lines'. For each question, identify the evidence from the text and explain what it suggests about the character or the situation.

Max the monkey adjusted his spectacles and peered at the scattered, torn blueprints on the floor, his tail twitching nervously as he tapped his pencil against his chin.

Word bank: suggests that · implies · indicates · reveals · consequently · furthermore · on the other hand · this leads me to believe

1. Based on Max's body language, how is he feeling? Justify your answer using evidence from the passage. (3 marks)

2. Explain why Max might be looking at torn blueprints. What does this suggest about his current task? (3 marks)

3. Compare and contrast how a confident character might react to a difficult puzzle compared to Max's current reaction. (4 marks)

4. What might happen if Max decides to stop tapping his pencil and begins to organise the blueprints? Explain the shift in his behaviour. (3 marks)

5. Is the setting helping or hindering Max? Provide evidence to support your inference. (3 marks)

6. What do you think is the 'maths puzzle' that Max is trying to solve? Create a brief hypothesis. (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Write a paragraph describing a new character entering the room to help Max. Do not explicitly state their emotions; instead, use 'show, don't tell' techniques so the reader has to infer their mood and intentions.