Describing Our Friends: A Character Study

Learning objective: To use expanded noun phrases and precise adjectives to describe characters in a narrative.

Read the passage about Max the monkey below. Use the word bank to help you identify adjectives and look for clues about his personality. Then, answer the questions to show your understanding of descriptive writing.

Max is an energetic monkey with fur the colour of burnt toast and bright, twinkling eyes that seem to spot every pattern in the forest. He carries a small, well-worn satchel filled with wooden number tiles and a tattered notebook. While other animals nap in the midday sun, Max is usually crouched on a mossy branch, carefully counting the petals on a daisy or measuring the distance between two tall oak trees. He has a habit of twitching his ears whenever he spots a tricky maths puzzle. With his quick, nimble fingers and a friendly grin that reveals a missing front tooth, Max is always ready to turn an ordinary afternoon into an exciting calculation challenge.

Word bank: enthusiastic · meticulous · energetic · vibrant · calculating · observant · curious · determined

1. Find two adjectives in the text used to describe Max’s physical appearance. (2 marks)

2. What does Max’s satchel tell us about his personality? Use evidence from the text. (2 marks)

3. The author says Max has 'twinkling eyes'. What does this suggest about his mood? (2 marks)

4. Explain why the author describes Max as 'energetic'. Provide an example from the text. (2 marks)

5. If Max were to go to the shop to buy a new notebook for £2.50 and a pencil for 80p, how much would he spend in total? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max sitting on his mossy branch. Make sure to include his satchel and something he might be measuring, like a colourful flower or a collection of stones.

Extension challenge: Write three sentences describing a new character. Use at least two expanded noun phrases (e.g., 'the glistening, golden sun') and one adverb to describe how they move.