

Max's Market Mystery

Learning objective: To develop inferential skills by identifying clues within a text to understand a character's feelings and motivations.

Read the passage carefully. Use the evidence provided in the text to answer the questions, ensuring you look for clues that are not explicitly stated.

Max the monkey stood at his stall in the bustling village market. His table was meticulously organised with wooden abacuses, jars of colourful marbles, and handwritten price tags. Max checked his ledger for the third time, his brow furrowed as he calculated the profit from his morning sales. Beside him, a stack of £1 coins wobbled precariously. When a young customer approached, Max quickly straightened his apron and offered a beaming smile, though his eyes darted back to the ledger. He tapped his pencil against his chin, his tail flicking rhythmically—a sure sign that he was deep in thought. As the final customer departed, Max let out a long, slow breath and slumped slightly against his chair. He reached into a hidden compartment beneath the table and pulled out a small, worn notebook filled with complex geometric sketches. His eyes sparkled with renewed energy as he began sketching a new pattern. The busy market noise seemed to fade into the background as he lost himself in his private passion, his earlier tension vanishing entirely now that the day's work was done.

Word bank: calculation · hesitant · cluttered · transaction · exhilarated · meticulously

1. What items were arranged on Max's table? (Literal) (2 marks)

2. How many times did Max check his ledger during the morning? (Literal) (1 mark)

3. How does Max feel about his work at the market stall compared to his work in his private notebook? Explain your reasoning. (Inferential) (3 marks)

4. What evidence in the text suggests that Max was feeling stressed or anxious while serving customers? (Inferential) (3 marks)

5. Do you think Max enjoys his role as a shopkeeper? Justify your answer using evidence from the text. (Evaluative) (3 marks)

Draw: Draw Max sitting behind his stall, showing his busy public market side versus his secret, creative side hidden beneath the table.



Extension challenge: Max is clearly passionate about geometry. Write a short paragraph explaining why a monkey who loves maths might find the market stall both a challenge and an opportunity. Use at least three words from the word bank in your response.