

Detective Skills with Max the Monkey: Mastering Inference

Learning objective: To develop the ability to infer meaning from a text by identifying clues that are not explicitly stated, meeting Class 5 English requirements.

Read the short story below, then answer the ten questions to help Max the Monkey solve the puzzle. Remember: look for clues in the text that tell you more than what is written on the page!

Max the Monkey sat in his favourite tree, clutching his banana-shaped calculator. He looked at the sky; it was a deep, bruised purple. A sudden gust of wind ruffled his fur, and he quickly gathered his scattered maths notes, tucking them firmly into his satchel. He glanced at his watch—it was nearly time for his meeting with Nova the Owl—but he decided to stay put. He watched as the garden birds retreated to the safety of their nests, tucking their heads under their wings. Max sighed, pulled his woolly jumper tighter, and retreated into his hollow, listening to the rhythmic tapping on the bark above.

Word bank: Inference · Evidence · Clues · Imply · Deduction · Atmosphere

1. 1. What is the weather like at the start of the story? A) Sunny and bright B) About to storm* C) A light spring breeze D) Snowing (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: Max feels perfectly calm and relaxed as the weather changes. (1 mark)

3. 3. What evidence from the text suggests a storm is coming? (1 word) (1 mark)

4. 4. Why did the garden birds tuck their heads under their wings? A) They were tired B) They were playing a game C) They were sensing danger or bad weather* D) They were looking for food (1 mark)

5. 5. What is the 'rhythmic tapping' that Max hears on the bark? (1 word) (1 mark)

6. 6. How do we know Max is prepared for the cold? A) He has a warm jumper* B) He has a fire C) He is running home D) He has a blanket (1 mark)

7. 7. True or False: The text explicitly states that it is raining. (1 mark)

8. 8. What does Max's decision to stay put suggest about his personality? A) He is lazy B) He is stubborn or focused* C) He is scared D) He is confused (1 mark)

9. 9. Where does Max live? (1 word) (1 mark)

10. 10. Max is meeting Nova. What do they likely want to do? A) Eat lunch B) Stargaze (but they can't because of the weather)* C) Play tag D) Go swimming (1 mark)

Draw: Draw Max the Monkey inside his tree hollow, looking out at the purple sky while clutching his satchel. Include clues like the birds hiding or the wind blowing.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph (3-4 sentences) explaining what might happen when the rain stops and Max finally meets Nova. Use at least two clues from the story to inform your ideas.