

Inference Detectives with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To use evidence from a text to infer a character's feelings and hidden motives.

Read the passage carefully. Max needs your help to solve the mystery of what is happening in the scene. Use the clues in the text and your own knowledge to fill in the answers. Remember to explain 'why' you think your answer is correct using evidence from the writing.

As Arthur clutched his rucksack tightly and stepped onto the creaking floorboards, he kept his eyes fixed firmly on the shadow stretching across the dusty corridor.

Word bank: suggests that · implies · the author shows · consequently · furthermore · this reveals · on the other hand · because · in addition

1. How is Arthur feeling in this moment? Use a word to describe his emotion and explain why you think this based on the passage. (2 marks)

2. What can you infer about the setting of this story? Look at the descriptive words used and explain what they tell us about the place. (2 marks)

3. Why might Arthur be holding his rucksack so tightly? Suggest a reason based on his behaviour. (2 marks)

4. Based on the phrase 'kept his eyes fixed', what can you infer about what Arthur is doing? Is he relaxed or alert? (2 marks)

5. If you were writing the next paragraph, what do you predict Arthur will do next? Use evidence from the passage to support your prediction. (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph describing a different character entering the same corridor. Use 'show, don't tell' techniques to help the reader infer that the character is feeling brave and curious, rather than just saying they are brave.