

Max's Magnificent Market Maths Mystery

Learning objective: To develop reading comprehension skills including retrieval, inference, and understanding vocabulary in context.

Read the short story below carefully, then answer the questions that follow. Think like Max the monkey—look for the clues hidden in the text!

The Sunnyside Market was bustling with energy. Max the monkey skipped between the wooden stalls, his eyes scanning the prices. He had exactly £5.00 in his pocket. At the fruit stand, a farmer sold juicy apples for 30p each. Max wanted to buy enough for his friends. Nearby, Zara the zebra was busy admiring the vibrant patterns on hand-woven baskets. She noticed a sign that read, 'Hand-made baskets: £2.50'. Max paused, trying to calculate how many apples he could buy before his money ran out. He scurried over to the book stall, where Pip the caterpillar was happily reading a tiny poem. Pip pointed to a sign: 'Used storybooks: 80p each'. Max smiled; he could afford a feast of fruit and a tale of adventure. He felt like the richest monkey in the forest.

Word bank: barter · stall · scurried · calculate · bustling · merchandise

1. 1. What is the main setting of the story? A) A forest, B) A classroom, C) A market, D) A library. Correct: C* (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: Max has £10.00 to spend. (1 mark)

3. 3. How much does one apple cost at the fruit stand? (1 mark)

4. 4. What is Pip doing when Max finds them? A) Buying a basket, B) Reading a poem, C) Selling fruit, D) Counting money. Correct: B* (1 mark)

5. 5. What word in the text describes the market as being busy and full of energy? (1 mark)

6. 6. True or False: Zara is interested in the fruit stand. (1 mark)

7. 7. How much would two baskets cost in total? (1 mark)

8. 8. Which character loves to solve maths puzzles? A) Zara, B) Pip, C) Max, D) The farmer. Correct: C* (1 mark)

9. 9. If Max buys one book for 80p, how much change will he have from his £5.00 (before buying any apples)? (1 mark)

10. 10. Why does Max feel like the 'richest monkey in the forest' at the end of the story? (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a scene of the Sunnyside Market showing Max the monkey holding a basket of apples and Pip the caterpillar reading a book on a stall.



Extension challenge: Greater Depth Questions: 1) Explain why Max feels successful even though he has a small amount of money. 2) Compare and contrast how Max and Zara interact with the market stalls. 3) Justify your answer: Does the author present the market as a positive or negative place? Use evidence from the text. 4) What might happen if Max decided to buy two baskets instead of apples? 5) Create a new ending where Max decides to share his purchase with Zara and Pip. 6) Why do you think the author chose to include specific prices in the text?