

Reading Detective: Uncovering Meaning with Max and Pip

Learning objective: To develop reading comprehension skills by identifying explicit information, inferring character motives, and analysing the impact of descriptive language.

Read the questions carefully and use your best detective skills to provide detailed answers. Remember to use evidence from your own knowledge of how stories work and look for clues in the phrasing.

Max the monkey was busy calculating the exact trajectory of a falling acorn, while Pip the caterpillar was curled up on a leaf, slowly munching through a dusty old dictionary. 'Pip,' Max chirped, adjusting his imaginary spectacles, 'if the acorn drops at a velocity of five metres per second, how long until it reaches the forest floor?' Pip didn't look up, but a small smile creased her face. 'Perhaps, Max, it isn't about how fast it falls, but where it lands and what it might become. Have you considered that it might be a future oak tree, rather than just a falling object?' Max paused, his brow furrowed as he stared at the acorn. He hadn't thought about the story of the tree before; he had only been thinking about the numbers.

Word bank: inference · evidence · adjectives · perspective · synonym · context

1. What does the phrase 'his brow furrowed' suggest about how Max is feeling and why? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (2 marks)

2. Identify two different perspectives held by Max and Pip regarding the falling acorn. Why do they see the situation differently? (2 marks)

3. Find and copy an adjective from the text that describes the book Pip is reading. What does this tell us about the condition of the book? (2 marks)

4. How does the author show that Max is becoming more thoughtful by the end of the passage? (2 marks)

5. If you were to add a sentence to the end of this passage to show Max's reaction, what might he say to Pip? Explain your choice. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene showing Max and Pip together in the forest. Include Max looking at his notes about the acorn and Pip looking at a tiny, sprouting seedling nearby.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph explaining how Max's love for maths and Pip's love for stories could help them work together to solve a problem in the forest.