

Unlocking the Story: A Reading Comprehension Scaffold

Learning objective: To develop reading comprehension skills by analysing character motives, setting the scene, and identifying descriptive language.

Read the opening passage carefully. Use the prompts below to structure your analysis. Remember to use evidence from the text to support your answers and use the word bank to help link your ideas together.

Max the monkey adjusted his spectacles as he gazed at the complex mathematical pattern carved into the ancient stone wall of the jungle ruin.

Word bank: furthermore · consequently · in addition to · this suggests that · reveals · implying · on the other hand · nevertheless · as a result

1. Character Analysis: What does Max's action of adjusting his spectacles tell us about his personality? Start your answer by saying: Max's action of adjusting his spectacles suggests that... (2 marks)

2. Setting the Scene: How does the author create an atmosphere of mystery? Start your answer by saying: The author creates a sense of mystery by describing the... (2 marks)

3. Prediction: Based on the opening sentence, what might Max be looking for? Start your answer by saying: I predict that Max is searching for... (2 marks)

4. Word Choice: Why did the author choose the word 'complex' to describe the pattern? Start your answer by saying: The word 'complex' is used to show that the pattern is... (2 marks)

5. Personal Connection: If you were exploring a jungle ruin with Max, what would you be most excited to discover? Start your answer by saying: If I were with Max, I would be most excited to find... (1 mark)

Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph predicting what happens next. Use at least two connectives from the word bank to describe the challenges Max might face as he tries to solve the stone wall puzzle.