

Max's Monday Mystery: A Diary Entry Challenge

Learning objective: To use descriptive language, first-person perspective, and emotive vocabulary to compose a diary entry.

Max the monkey has had a very busy day solving puzzles in the jungle! Read the diary entry plan below. Your task is to rewrite the draft by incorporating richer vocabulary, the use of fronted adverbials, and precise emotive language to show how Max felt. Imagine you are Max and complete the diary entry using the word bank to help you.

Word bank: baffling · exhilarated · meticulously · unexpectedly · exasperated · triumphantly · mysterious · clambered · shimmering

1. Max's original draft: 'Today I woke up. I found a puzzle. It was hard. I solved it. I felt happy.' Rewrite this sentence using at least two words from the word bank and a fronted adverbial to make the action more exciting. (3 marks)

2. Max's original draft: 'I climbed a tree to look for clues. I saw a shiny object.' Explain why adding adjectives like 'shimmering' or 'mysterious' changes the way the reader feels about the setting. (2 marks)

3. Max's original draft: 'I finally finished the puzzle at sunset.' Justify why a diary entry should be written in the past tense, and why it is important to include the order of events. (2 marks)

4. Compare and contrast: How would the tone of this diary entry change if it were written by Pip the caterpillar, who loves collecting words, rather than Max, who loves solving puzzles? (3 marks)

5. What might happen if Max discovered his puzzle was actually a secret map leading to a hidden treasure? Write two sentences describing his immediate reaction using an emotive verb. (2 marks)

6. Create a fronted adverbial that describes how Max felt when he triumphantly finished his day. (e.g., 'With a wide grin, Max...') (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a scene from Max's day showing him solving a complex puzzle in his jungle home. Include labels using at least three adjectives from the word bank to describe the surroundings.



Extension challenge: Write a full-length diary entry (150 words) from the perspective of Max. Ensure you include a personal reflection at the end. Why do you think Max enjoys puzzles so much? Justify your opinion by referring to his personality traits.