

Year 2 English Assessment: Reading Between the Lines

Learning objective: To develop skills in inference by identifying clues in a text to understand a character's feelings and actions.

Read the short story carefully. Answer the questions below using evidence from the text to help you explain your thoughts. Remember to use full sentences.

Max the monkey stood at the edge of the tall climbing frame. He looked down at his paws, then up at the highest branch. He took a deep breath, puffed out his chest, and tightened his shoelaces. Zara the zebra trotted over and stood right beside him. She started humming a happy tune and began to paint a colourful pattern on the ground with a stick. Max glanced at Zara, smiled a tiny smile, and took his first step upward.

Word bank: cautious · excited · clue · feelings · evidence · nervous · thoughtful

1. How do you think Max is feeling at the start of the story? Use one word from the text to explain why. (2 marks)

2. What tells us that Max is preparing himself to climb? List two things he does. (2 marks)

3. Why do you think Zara starts humming and drawing patterns when she stands next to Max? (3 marks)

4. How does Max feel after Zara arrives? Provide evidence from the text to support your answer. (4 marks)

5. Why is it important that Max 'glanced' at Zara before he started to climb? Explain your reasoning. (4 marks)

6. Creative Writing Task: Write a short paragraph (3-5 sentences) describing what happens next. Think about what Max says to Zara once he reaches the top of the climbing frame. (5 marks)

7. If you were Zara, how would you encourage Max to keep climbing if he felt stuck halfway up? (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max at the top of the climbing frame and Zara cheering for him below. Make sure to show how happy they both look.



Extension challenge: Total: /25