

Detective Work with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To make inferences about characters and settings by using clues from the text.

Read the clues below and use your 'detective brain' to infer what is happening. Use the word bank to help you describe the feelings and actions of the characters.

Max the Monkey is sitting at his wooden desk. He is tapping his pencil against his chin and frowning at a piece of paper covered in numbers. Suddenly, his eyes grow wide, he stands up quickly, and starts jumping up and down while pointing at the page. Outside the window, a dark cloud covers the sun, and the wind begins to blow the leaves off the trees.

Word bank: excited · anxious · curious · determined · cautious · puzzled

1. At the start of the passage, how do you think Max is feeling? Give a reason for your answer using the text. (2 marks)

2. What does Max's sudden jumping and pointing suggest about what he has just done? (2 marks)

3. Look at the weather description. What is likely to happen next in the story? (2 marks)

4. If Max were to go outside right now, what might he need to take with him? Why? (2 marks)

5. Why do you think the author chose to mention the dark cloud? What does it tell us about the scene? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of what Max's desk might look like, including the paper with his maths puzzle and the view through the window showing the changing weather.



Extension challenge: Write two sentences describing how Max would act if he was feeling 'cautious' instead of 'excited' while looking at his maths puzzle.