

Detective Work: Unlocking Clues in a Story

Learning objective: To use evidence from a text to make inferences about characters and settings.

Read the opening passage below. Think about what the author is showing you without saying it directly. Use the prompts to help you infer what is happening and why.

Max the monkey gripped his satchel tightly and stared at the heavy, rusted gate, his breath forming tiny clouds in the chilly morning air.

Word bank: because · suggests that · this implies · perhaps · on the other hand · due to · consequently · this makes me think

1. How is Max feeling about the gate? Use evidence from the passage to support your inference. (2 marks)

2. The text mentions Max's breath forming 'tiny clouds'. What does this tell us about the setting? (2 marks)

3. Why might Max be holding his satchel 'tightly'? Give a reason for his behaviour. (2 marks)

4. What do you think is on the other side of the gate? Describe what you imagine. (2 marks)

5. If Max were to speak right now, what might he say? Write a short sentence that fits his current mood. (1 mark)

Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph explaining how the author used descriptive words to show us Max's emotions without using the words 'nervous' or 'cold'.